

Hafa Adai!

Salary of PSS officials reduced. **PAGE 2**

CHCC receives \$2.5M for utility arrears. **PAGE 3**

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75¢

Saipan Tribune

2 passengers test positive



By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Two passengers who recently flew in from Guam tested positive for the COVID-19 virus over the weekend, increasing the CNMI's total number of cases to 40.

See TWO on Page 4

Francisco C. Ada/
Saipan International
Airport personnel wait
as a United Airlines
flight readies to
release passengers
to the buses that
will take them to the
CNMI's quarantine
facility.
JUSTINE NAUTA

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 26, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	332	5	337
Recovered	244	0	244
Active	83	5	88
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,936

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	38	2	40
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			11,338**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Close to 400 received PUA initial claims

» Labor targets
\$5M worth of
PUA this week

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is targeting to process Pandemic Unemployment Assistance worth at least \$5 million this week, following

RELATED NEWS

More than \$3.5M unemployment benefits released. **PAGE 7**

over \$3 million worth of PUA payments processed for initial claims last week.

At the news briefing last Friday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said that close to 400 individuals from Saipan,

Tinian, and Rota have already received their initial claims benefits, and that in the next couple of weeks, the department's goal is to process all initial claims applications, pegged at over 7,000.

Labor will start processing weekly claims benefits applications afterwards.

See CLOSE on Page 4

Profile of a killer: Unraveling the deadly novel coronavirus

By ADAM GELLER and MALCOLM RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

this enemy?

Seven months after the first patients were hospitalized in China battling an infection

See PROFILE on Page 4

NEW YORK (AP)—What is



Dr. Desiree Marshall, director of Autopsy and After Death Services for University of Washington Medicine, examines the preserved heart of a person who died of COVID-19 related complications, as she works in a negative-pressure laboratory, Tuesday, July 14, 2020, in Seattle.

AP

MANGLONA ON 9TH

PROPOSED IPI AMENDMENT:

'A dangerous precedent'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) is guarded about Imperial Pacific International (CNMI),

LLC's proposal to amend its casino license agreement with the CNMI for the ninth time, describing it as "a dangerous precedent without legislative standing."



Manglona

In a letter to Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Manglona warned against the amendment "as it would

reduce a "future contractual
See PRECEDENT on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



LOCAL

Triple J Motors is a hole-in-one sponsor of the Saipan Chamber's golf tournament.

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BUSINESS

Docomo Pacific sponsored the 36th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

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LIFE & STYLE

Regis Philbin, the genial host of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," has died at 88.

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Local

IPI claims \$89.3M loss due to ex-contractor's bad job

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has directed the court's clerk to strike or remove from the docket Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's amended counterclaims against IPI's former contractor, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC.

» Manglona removes IPI's amended counterclaims

In an order Thursday, Manglona said more than 21 days have passed since IPI served its answer and counterclaims against Pacific Rim and Pacific Rim served its motion to dismiss the counterclaims.

Therefore, the judge said, IPI cannot amend its pleading as a matter of course. She said IPI may do so with opposing party's written consent or the court's permission.

"However, IPI did not provide written consent from Pacific Rim nor has it obtained permission to amend from the court," Manglona said. If IPI wants to amend its counterclaims, the judge said it must

do so in accordance with Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Last April 16, IPI filed its answer to Pacific Rim's second amended complaint and counterclaims.

After the court extended the filing deadline twice, Pacific Rim filed a motion to dismiss IPI's counterclaims last June 23.

In striking IPI's amended counterclaims, Manglona said

IPI did not file an opposition within the 14 days provided under the rules; however, considering IPI's change in counsel, and Pacific Rim counsel Colin Thompson's statements to the court that he has been in discussions with IPI's new counsel to agree on new deadlines, the court extended the deadline

for IPI to file its opposition to the motion to dismiss to July 22, 2020.

Manglona said that, instead of filing an opposition, IPI amended its counterclaims.

In its amended counterclaims, IPI, through new counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, sued Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment.

Hasselback alleged, among other things, that IPI lost about \$89,342,352

in operations revenue at the site of IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan due to the delays associated with Pacific Rim's "unworkmanlike performance."



Hasselback

Salary of PSS officials reduced

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The proposed reduction in the salaries of Public School System officials and school administrators that the Board of Education earlier approved is now in effect.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said the salary adjustment that goes with the newly approved organizational chart was implemented last July 6.

The BOE approved the revised organizational chart last June 4, abolishing the titles of four associate commissioners and, in effect, significantly reduced the salaries of PSS officials and school administrators.

"Whoever is receiving over \$55,000 will go down to \$55,000. Whoever is receiving below \$55,000 will remain wherever they are at," Ada said.

The salary adjustment for principals and vice principals will be implemented this month.

With the new plan, PSS aims to save \$1 million a year.

Ada said the salaries of teachers and school support staff were not adjusted, but their work hours per pay period were reduced from 80 to 64.

The revised organizational

chart retains one associate commissioner and Kimo Rosario has been appointed to the position. He will oversee the PSS services program, including the Office on Accountability, Research and Evaluation, Office of Curriculum and Instruction and Student Support Services. Rosario is no longer the PSS Finance director, but he will still oversee finance/payroll/procurement and supply, the Pupil Transportation Office, Facilities and Development Management, Child Nutrition Program and School Environment.

Based on the revised organizational chart, the education commissioner now has direct supervision over school principals, the human resources office, federal programs, all grants, Instructional Technology/Distance Education, State Infrastructure Technology, Family and Community Engagement, and the special evaluation program.

In addition, the commissioner now has the responsibility to oversee school administrators and conduct annual performance evaluations, as well as to stay abreast of current events in school.

Ada said the revised chart aims to stabilize the functions, roles and responsibilities of PSS programs.

District Court resumes regular hours

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Effective today, Monday, the U.S. District Court for the NMI will resume regular business hours at the new U.S. Courthouse building in Gualo Rai as part of a phased approach to reopening the courthouse to the public. Its business hours are 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays. The intake counter at the clerk's office closes during the lunch hour from 12pm to 1pm and at 4:30pm each business day.

In an order last Friday, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said she issued the new order after having weighed the right of public access to the court against the need to protect the health and safety of the public. While the COVID-19 threat continues to exist, Manglona said it appears that the movement restrictions, home isolation, and social distancing measures implemented across the CNMI have minimized the spread of the disease.

There have been 40 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the

See **DISTRICT** on Page 4

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CHCC receives \$2.5M for utility arrears

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. got a timely assist from the central government when it agreed to pony up over half of the \$5 million that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is demanding CHCC to

pay by Aug. 6.

CHCC board of trustee chair Lauri Ogumoro said the central government will transmit over \$2.5 million, half of what CUC is asking for, to CHCC this Wednesday, July 29. In exchange, CUC will not shut off CHCC's power.

"There is a promise from

the central government to give us some funding by next Wednesday [July 29]...and we'll be able to hand it over to [CUC] as a first installment," said Ogumoro.

When asked if CHCC will be able to pay CUC the rest of the \$5 million by Aug. 6, Ogumoro says that, for now, she is confident that they will be able to pay CUC \$2.5 million by this Wednesday. She

described the \$2.5 million as a "good faith effort" from the central government to enable CHCC to pay its utility bill.

The fund transfer comes after the CHCC board of trustees met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Finance Secretary David Atalig at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill last July 24.

As a means to control its

power costs, CUC earlier asked CHCC to put the hospital on generator for at least six hours everyday but Ogumoro pointed out that this is against regulations of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

CHCC did go on generators after both Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Soudelor, Ogumoro said, but since CMS will be on island to certify the Al-

ternate Care Site, CHCC will get in trouble with CMS if it is found operating via generators. "We anticipate CMS here to certify the alternate care site for COVID-19, and they could just walk into the hospital and if they see the generator is on, then we will be in pretty bad shape. So we pointed that out [to CUC], and they [CUC] understand, that so that won't happen," said Ogumoro.

Aug. 17 deadline for CNMI Long-Term Resident status

Aug. 17 is the final deadline for persons who have been living in the Marianas under humanitarian parole status and who may qualify to apply for permanent residence in the Marianas under U.S. Public Law 116-24.

Application forms and instructions for filing are available on the USCIS CNMI Long-Term Resident Status page. Applications must be postmarked on or before Aug. 17, 2020 to be considered.

Under the legislation, which Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced in Congress, the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act was written to protect the 1,038 individuals who had been granted humanitarian parole during the Obama administration, from deportation. The Trump administration announced in December 2018 it would not extend the Obama-era paroles.

Once the Relief Act was signed into law in June 2019, the Department of Homeland Security temporarily extended parole and set the Aug. 17, 2020, deadline for application for permanent resident status.

Applicants must submit both Forms I-955 and Form I-765, and pay the biometric services fee of \$85 and the Form I-765 filing fee of \$410 at the time of applying. There is no filing fee for Form I-955.

There are no fee waivers or exemptions. USCIS will reject applications submitted without payment for fees.

The total cost of \$495 is nonrefundable.

Persons seeking CMNI Long-Term Resident status must be in at least one of the following groups and meet additional criteria set out below.

Eligible groups are:

Stateless. Born in the Northern Mariana Islands between

Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978.

The spouse or unmarried child under 21 of a Stateless person.

CNMI Permanent Resident. Was, on Nov. 27, 2009, a permanent resident of the Commonwealth (as defined in the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code).

The spouse or unmarried child under 21 of a CNMI Permanent Resident.

Immediate relative. Was, on Nov. 27, 2011, and remains, a spouse, child, or parent of a U.S. citizen.

Caregiver. Had a grant of parole on Dec. 31, 2018 as an in-home caregiver.

In addition, eligible persons must meet all of the following requirements:

■ Have been lawfully present or in deferred action in the Commonwealth on June 25, 2019 or on Dec. 31, 2018;

■ Be admissible as an immigrant to the United States

under the Immigration and Nationality Act;

■ Have resided continuously and lawfully in the Commonwealth from Nov. 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019; and

■ Not be a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has issued five pages of Frequently Asked Questions about who may apply and how that are available at <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/outreach-engagements/CNMI%20Long-Term%20Resident%20Engagement%20%E2%80%93%20Q%26A.pdf>

Each application will be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis.

Sablan advises constituents to be wary of scams and unnecessary "document processing fees" that are being of-

fered to those who hope to be eligible for permanent status. "Hope and a looming deadline can make us vulnerable to the unscrupulous," Sablan said. "But, especially at this time when so many people have lost work because of the coronavirus, it would be tragic to spend money unnecessarily."

He encourages those people who were previously granted

humanitarian parole and who have determined they meet the criteria for eligibility, however, not to miss the Aug. 17 deadline.

Long-Term Resident Status provided under Public Law 116-24 allows the recipient to live and work legally in the Marianas for as long as they want without the need to apply for any other immigration visa or status. (PR)

Rezoning policy OK'd to reduce Hopwood population

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has approved the Public School System's rezoning proposal in order to reduce the student population at Hopwood Middle School.

The board approved the rezoning and readjusting of school boundaries during a special BOE meeting two weeks ago.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada explained that this would address the overcrowding at Hopwood and improve the student-teacher ratio.

Last school year, the student population at HMS was at 932. With the newly approved rezoning policy, 130 middle school students residing in Puerto Rico, Navy Hill, and Chinatown will be transferred to Tanapag Middle School.

The other areas for rezoning are As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya-Mobil upwards, As Lito, Finasisu, and Joeten-Dandan.

The middle school students in these areas will now have to attend classes at the Dandan Middle School instead of Hopwood.

Ada said the new policy would mean shorter com-

mutes for majority of students, easing traffic conditions in San Jose, and also fuel savings on PSS' part.

"The criteria being used to identify rezoning areas are distance, commute time, and

safety," he said.

Ada said he has also been in communication with the principals involved, who gladly informed him that they are willing and are able to accommodate new students.

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PROFILE

From Page 1

doctors had never seen before, the world’s scientists and citizens have reached an unsettling crossroads.

Countless hours of treatment and

PRECEDENT

From Page 1

debt of a private party” to the CNMI, and would “materially harm” the financial affairs of the Commonwealth.

Among other changes, IPI wants to cut the \$15-million annual license fee by half and to source money for the community benefit fund from the casino’s net profit, instead of a flat \$20 million every year.

Manglona wants Manibusan to clarify whether IPI’s requests can even be legally considered, or accepted by the CNMI Lottery Commission without legislative changes.

“As far as my office is aware, the CNMI Casino License Agreement did not provide provisions or any authority to allow reductions in licensing fees. We are also not aware of any statute that allows any attorney, representative, or employee of any branch of the CNMI to allow the reduction of licensing fees in any circumstance,” Manglona’s letter states. “Also, my office would like to know if any consideration of such changes invokes fiduciary duties on the members of the Lottery Commission and the Attorney General as the amounts of monies owed to the CNMI would be reduced without legislative standing at the sole discretion of the commission members.”

At the moment, the annual casino license fee funds senatorial district projects, as well as the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance. A bill is also currently pending at the Senate that, if passed, would allocate the entire \$15-million license fee to CNMI retirees.

CLOSE

From Page 1

The department processes PUAs in chronological order, where each application goes through several processes, including review and adjudication. A Labor employee processes at least 30 to 40 applications a day.

“We processed several hundred initial applications. We are still going through several thousand, we’ve initiated payments for over \$3 million as of yesterday, and today, that’ll go up by another \$800,000 to a \$1 million,” she said. “As far as processing, if someone says they were processed, good for them. They completed the application, the documents were intact, we verified the information with their employer, and that’s why they were processed.”

The Department of Finance then processes payments for PUA applications that were deemed complete and have been verified and approved by Labor, where payments are made through direct deposits or paper checks.

“What Labor submits to Department of Finance to carry out means

research, trial and error now make it possible to take much closer measure of the new coronavirus and the lethal disease it has unleashed. But to take advantage of that intelligence, we must confront our persistent vulnerability: The virus leaves no choice.

“It’s like we’re in a battle with

The Lottery Commission

Manglona also expressed concerns on the draft amendment being made, submitted to the Lottery Commission, and forwarded, for review, to the Office of the Attorney General, even though the Lottery Commission has yet to meet officially.

“We do not have any public record that the Lottery Commission has met, nor have public hearings been made related to the request from IPI. Yet, the Lottery Commission made a decision to forward the document for review when it has not met. This procedural requirement would become important if the proceedings for the amendment approvals are faulty,” he said.

Aside from changes to the license fee and the community benefit fund, IPI also wants the deadlines to complete the construction of the Imperial Palace Resort in Garapan and its other projects extended.

According to the senator, authority was never conferred to the Lottery Commission to extend the development schedules for phases I and II of the Saipan Integrated Resorts, and that the license agreement delegated such responsibility to the Development Plan Advisory Committee.

“Any amendments to the development schedule without DPAC’s endorsement would be outright illegal,” he added.

DPAC removal is against public interest

The DPAC, under the Office of the Governor, was created under the casino license agreement to make a determination on the construction status and timeline for the safe construction and

they’ve gone through their application and there are no errors and everything’s verified and ready to go,” Finance Secretary David Atalig said. “We will process that claim or that check to them via direct deposit within 24 to 48 hours. The quickest and fastest way is to ensure that your application has your banking information so that we can serve that you get your money the quickest way.”

Incomplete applications

Labor is weeding out applications that are incomplete or are filed with incorrect information, as they are finding, based on verifications with the employers. According to Benavente, majority have errors, where they are finding, during the adjudication process, that about 40 out of 50 applications are done incorrectly or inaccurately.

“Many of the applicants have uploaded documents to the portal, which is great, because we don’t have to ask them proof of their income or proof of their hourly wages. But, much more, many more applicants did not upload their documents, or put in the correct wage or hours,” Benavente said. “Some employees did not correctly put the dates of their

something that we can’t see, that we don’t know, and we don’t know where it’s coming from,” said Vivian Castro, a nurse supervisor at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Yonkers, just north of New York City, which struggled with its caseload this spring.

completion of the initial gaming facility and Phase I of the integrated resort.

However, Manglona said that his office’s investigation of the Casino License Agreement Amendment No. 6 illustrated that the Office of the Attorney General had concurred with the Office of the Governor, the Lottery Commission, and IPI to remove the DPAC from any review of the initial gaming facility.

“It appears that the report of the contractor may have illustrated compliance defects and their removal is completely against public interests,” Manglonma said.

The senator asked the Office of the Attorney General to review the amendments and restore the review process that was originally required of the DPAC review for the Saipan Integrated Resorts, as well as to review the prior work by DPAC, which “establishes the critical factors that the CNMI must consider, but all remain ignored, by the CNMI Lottery Commission.”

Further, Manglona stated that his office has been trying to establish DPAC’s status, but is hampered due to its reluctance to provide details of its engagement.

“DPAC has executed a contract which prevents them from communicating or disclosing their CNMI contracted works due to a non-disclosure section that the Office of the Attorney General has approved. ...It is clear that this non-disclosure requirement is contrary to transparency expectations for public good,” he said.

The senator has asked the Office of the Attorney General to remove the non-disclosure and all communication restrictions imposed on DPAC.

furlough [or] the dates and hours of [them being] laid off. All these information have to be completely verified for the process.”

To help rectify errors or incomplete applications, the department has been reaching out to applicants who have issues. Other government agencies have also loaned the department their employees to assist with telephone lines and email correspondence.

“We’re going to focus all staff on adjudication, which is reviewing and processing PUA claims,” she said.

Benavente also said that they are going to hold a community outreach on July 29, Wednesday, 9am to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, to help people who need more assistance with their applications, whether they be on weekly or initial claims.

“We’re practicing the social distancing that’s required because of this pandemic... and so although maybe we won’t get 1,000 people to help, at least we’ll get several hundred to assist that day,” she said.

Benavente also said that people may also visit and receive assistance at the Department of Labor’s office on Capital Hill, from 8am to 2pm.

Castro had treated scores of infected patients before she, too, was hospitalized for the virus in April, then spent two weeks in home quarantine. As soon as she returned to the emergency room for her first shift, she rushed to comfort yet another casualty—a man swallowing the few words he could muster between gasps for air.

“It just came back, that fear,” she said. “I just wanted to tell him not to give up.”

The coronavirus is invisible, but seemingly everywhere. It requires close contact to spread, but it has reached around the globe faster than any pandemic in history.

COVID-19 was not even on the world’s radar in November. But it has caused economic upheaval echoing the Great Depression, while claiming

TWO

From Page 1

One passenger, the 39th case announced last July 25, was identified through incoming traveler screening, while the 40th case, which was announced yesterday, July 26, was identified through contact tracing.

Both individuals were not on the same flight, according to Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer. The 40th case was confirmed positive on another flight. Both passengers are now safely isolated at the Kanoa Resort quarantine site in Susupe since arriving and are being closely monitored.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for both individuals for their most immediate contacts, which includes passengers on the same flight, close family members, and friends of the new confirmed case.

Before the new cases, the CHCC website’s dashboard, which outlines information about the CNMI’s COVID-19 cases, showed that of the 38 case at that time, 22 are male and 16

DISTRICT

From Page 2

CNMI, with two deaths. Right now, based on a five-color Community Vulnerability Risk Levels, the CNMI is at Level Blue, which is just a step from the safest level, which is Green.

To maintain social distancing, Manglona said a limited number of members of the public will be admitted to attend open court proceedings.

Manglona said anyone entering the building must wear a face mask, sanitize their hands upon entering, and exercise social distancing (stay 6 feet apart from others).

Court security will deny entry to anyone who is not wearing face masks; anyone who has been diagnosed with an active case of COVID-19, or has had direct contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with an active case of COVID-19 and has not subsequently tested negative for COVID-19.

The court security will also deny entry to anyone who has been asked to self-quarantine or self-isolate by any doctor, hospital, or health agency in the last 14 days or has not subsequently tested negative for COVID-19.

more than 580,000 lives. In the U.S. alone, the virus has already killed more Americans than died fighting in World War I.

Even those figures don’t capture the pandemic’s full sweep. Nine of every 10 students worldwide shut out of their schools at one point. More than 7 million flights grounded. Countless moments of celebration and sorrow—weddings and graduations, baby showers and funerals—put off, reconfigured or abandoned because of worries about safety.

In short, the coronavirus has re-scripted nearly every moment of daily life. And fighting it—whether by searching for a vaccine or seeking to protect family—takes knowing the enemy. It’s the essential first step in what could be an extended quest for some version of normalcy.

are female, with ages ranging from ages zero to 80. On July 26, the dashboard showed that 23 are male and 17 are female, which means that the newest cases are male and female.

So far, the CNMI has gone one month with no cases of community transmission. Muña said, “We have successfully done that in a way that are numbers are low, and we have not seen community transmission in over three weeks.”

She added that they are trying as much as possible to make sure that it does not get out of hand to the point where the CNMI will see community transmission.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 40 cases with two deaths.

Low-risk area

The Department of Public Health and Social Services of Guam has identified the CNMI as a low-risk area for travelers among Pacific countries and jurisdictions.

The department is using the COVID-19 Area Risk score as a primary tool used to assess the risk of an area’s potential spread of COVID-19.

The court security will deny entry anyone who has experienced the following symptoms that the Centers for Disease Control has identified as possible signs of COVID-19 in the last 14 days:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Manglona said individuals prevented from entering the building will be provided contact information for the court and all tenants of the courthouse so that they may attempt to conduct their business by phone or other remote means.

As for court proceedings, Manglona said the court will resume normal operations, subject to restrictions.

House panel seeks comments on military exercises in CNMI

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Do you have an opinion regarding military presence and trainings in the CNMI? The House of Representatives' Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs wants to hear from you.

The committee is seeking comments from the public about House Joint Resolution 21-8, which lobbies for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to oppose any increase in destructive military presence or training in the CNMI.

The lawmaker said that the FFA is looking at the issue from the environmental standpoint, and had mentioned to the Mariana Islands Training and Testing office that the CNMI should be given more time to review it and its impacts.

The panel recently held public hearings both on Tinian and Rota where the response had been "pretty positive," according to FFA chair Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan).

He said the Rota community, while not opposed to the resolution, expressed concerns about the issue.

On Tinian, Castro said, Mayor Edwin Aldan said he's neither opposed to the resolution nor to the military, but indicated that concerns were brought up during their working group meetings with the military.

"They mentioned to the officials that they would want to try to limit the long-term damage. ...They also indicated that the administration itself has been speaking with the military, not to go above and beyond, because of the cultural and environmental impacts

that the buildups are going to have," Castro said.

He said that, as a territory of the United States, the CNMI has to work with the military but he also sees the negative impacts of military presence in the U.S. and in the Pacific, particularly the territories. He cited the case of Guam, where the military's presence and actions have unintended consequences.

"I try my best to be in the middle but from a personal standpoint, I'm concerned just as much, especially due to the fact that we've seen the damage that's been happening to [Farallon de] Medinilla...as well as in Hawaii," he said.

At an earlier public hearing for the resolution on Saipan, Northern Marianas Descent Corp. president John Gonzalez said that the U.S. Navy's

RELATED STORY

■ LETTER: Stop beating a dead horse and create civilian-military task force. **PAGE 9**

actions and intentions are contrary to the intent of the CNMI's Covenant with the United States.

Also, Gonzales stressed, at the time, that the actions are "illegal and pose an existential threat to our survival as a people, our dignity, our sacred, cultural homeland, and our entire community," and referenced Section 806 (a) of the Covenant Agreement, which states that the U.S. is to "continue to recognize and respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the Northern Mariana Islands."

Potential

Castro said that his committee continues to work on get-

ting all information from all stakeholders.

"The governor...does see the potential of the Northern Islands being used for something other than target practice. As governor, he's led exploratory trips with federal partners...and for the last couple of weeks this month, for promotional purposes," he said. "They've always made it a point that they want to protect the natural resources and interests of the Northern Islands."

With attention created by YouTube videos that were recently shot in the Northern Islands, Castro said there's good possibility that there will more interest to visit the is-

lands. "I really want to ensure that when they [tourists] come over, the last thing that they see is something that wasn't in the brochure, like bombing artillery," he added.

The FFA chair said that the panel is working to get the resolution out before they hit the last batch of deliberations for the budget. They have received comments from the Bureau of Military Affairs, as well as from concerned community groups, and are again, seeking to receive more.

To submit your comments to the FFA, contact Castro's office at 664-8903, or email rep.castro@cnmileg.gov.mp or repljcastro@gmail.com.

Benavente: Allow us to do our jobs

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente is asking frustrated members of the community to allow her department to do their job in regards to processing and disbursing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

In a press conference last Friday, Benavente said for those planning to practice their rights to protest against DOL regarding their long awaited PUA benefits, to just allow DOL to do their jobs because they do want to help everyone.

"Everyone has the right to protest, everyone has the right to free speech, I'm just going to ask that the people allow us to do our jobs to help other people," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres echoed Benavente's statement stating that the administration is working hard to release payments and is asking the community allow them a couple of more days to get these payments out.

"We are trying our very best. We want to push out as much as we can. There is no benefit for us to hold anything back. I know we are trying our very best to release everything so I hope they can give us a couple of more days to put on in as much as we can and push out those PUAs that are really needed I ask for their patience," he said.

According to Kii Aldan Hernandez Kaneshi, the protest organizer, the protest was supposed to take place last

RELATED STORY

■ LETTER: CWS' plea. **PAGE 9**

Friday but due to inclement weather, it had to be postponed. She said she is still working on a reschedule date.

Kaneshi said her reason for the protest is to get the voices

of the CNMI people, out there.

"What inspired me to do the protest is because a lot of people are suffering enough due to COVID-19. Most of our people are no longer working and can't make ends meet. We all have kids and bills to pay. What's taking them so long? So if I can speak out and be a voice, then I'll speak out and be a voice for our people," she said.

Meanwhile, Gerald Narciso, in behalf of all the CNMI-Only Transitional workers whose status are still valid since the pandemic started, requested Torres to consider the position of all the contract workers when it comes to PUA.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-20-006

Archaeological Services for S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a sewerline replacement in Lower MIHA & the construction of a waterline replacement in San Antonio, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The projects have been broken down into the following detail:

S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) – This project proposes to install approximately 700 linear feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer pipe in order to abandon an existing collapsed sewerline that was installed on private property. The project includes the installation of new manholes and the reconnection of existing sewer service laterals to the new sewer main.

W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement – The project aims to upgrade and replace the existing ACP distribution main in San Antonio Village. This project will install about 2.1 miles of new 6-inch distribution main and .50 miles of 4-inch distribution main. The project will also include the replacement of all fire hydrants, gate valves, relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals, installation of new flush hydrants, air release valves, and asphalt road restoration.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

- Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - Background research design and work plan;
 - Archival background information;
 - Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - Past planning, research and studies;
 - The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - The degree of federal involvement;
 - The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
- Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
- Deliverables
 - 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the new waterline and sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked "CUC-RFP-20-006: Archaeological Services For Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.



All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- PRELIMINARIES:**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes: June 25, 2020
- REPORTS:**
 - Report by the Chairman
 - Report by the Acting Executive Director
- PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
 - Casino Licensee -- Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") -- Updates:
 - Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"). Update on the construction project
 - IPI Personnel:
 - Organizational Chart Update
 - Resident Employment Objectives
 - Status of Employee Payroll
 - Status of Employee Housing
 - IPI Financial Matters. Annual Casino License Fee (Due August 12, 2020)
 - Other Miscellaneous Matters
- OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Update on House Bill No. 21-11, HS1, SD1, SD3
 - IPI's Compliance with Commission Order No. 2020-002
 - Compliance Progress with Commission Order No. 2020-003 and No. 2020-004
 - Other Old Business Matters
- NEW BUSINESS:**
 - CCC Executive Director v. IPI -- CCC No. 20-001 Status Conference
 - Other New Business Matters
- EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - Report by Legal Counsel
 - Report by the CCC Audit and Compliance Division
- ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

/s/ Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

NWS warns of potentially heavy rainfall this week

Potentially heavy rainfall is expected this week in Guam and the CNMI, based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center is advising the public that localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged. If planning anything outdoors next week, have a backup plan in place.

Latest model guidance indicates rainfall amounts ranging from around 2.5 inches to over 6 inches are possible during the week, with the heaviest rainfall likely Tuesday



File photo shows tourists in raincoats crossing the streets of Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

through Thursday.

According to an advisory from the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, a robust upper-level low will interact with a series of trade-wind troughs to bring showers and thunderstorms to the region this week. Occasional heavy showers are expected to begin as early as today, Monday, and continuing through most of the week.

Latest model guidance indicates rainfall amounts ranging from around 2.5 inches to over 6 inches are possible dur-

ing the week, with the heaviest rainfall likely Tuesday through Thursday.

This developing situation will continue to be monitored closely over the next few days, said the NMI Emergency Operations Center advisory. If conditions warrant, this outlook will be updated daily until the threat is no longer expected or watches, advisories or warnings are issued. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Congress to hold hearing on territorial voting rights

On Tuesday, July 28, 2020, the House Administration Committee's Subcommittee on Elections will hold a hearing to address the denial of voting rights in U.S. territories—an historic first. While Congress has regularly held hearings addressing issues of political status in U.S. territories, never before has it held a hearing focused specifically on the issue of voting rights and disenfranchisement in these areas.

"One hundred days from now, Americans will go to the polls to elect the next president, one-third of the Senate, and the entire House. But almost 4 million citizens who live in U.S. territories will once again have to sit on the sidelines of American democracy while everyone else has their say," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, a nonpartisan public interest law organization that works to advance equality and voting rights in U.S. territories. "The idea that in the year 2020 millions of U.S. citizens remain unable to vote simply because of where they live cannot be squared with America's democratic and constitutional principles."

Weare added: "I applaud Chair Fudge and Ranking Member Davis for holding this historic hearing, and I look forward to testifying in support of voting rights for residents of U.S. territories."

The House Subcommittee on Elections will meet virtually at 10am EDT. The first panel will consist of statements by members of Congress from each territory. Weare and other witnesses from the territories will participate in the second panel.

The hearing may be viewed live AT <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJWT8poFQs8&feature=youtu.be>, and more information is available at <https://cha.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/voting-rights-and-election-administration-us-virgin-islands-and-other>. *(PR)*

Triple J donates hole-in-one prize for SCC golf tournament

Kicking up the notch at Hole 13 is Triple J Motors, the first hole-in-one sponsor for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2020 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Men and women of different skill levels will compete at the 155-yardage marker, shooting for a hole-in-one to win the 2019 Mazda MX-5 Club Sport Convertible valued at \$38,995.

Triple J Motors general manager Sean Ficke hopes that one lucky golfer will walk away with the sport convert-

ible. "Triple J has been a longtime supporter of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Scholarship Program, and we look forward to someone winning 2019 Mazda MX-5 Club Sport Convert-

ible this year," he said.

Triple J, which is also an elite "President's Circle" member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, continues to support recent events such as the SCC Business Person of the

Year Gala, the Saipan Young Professionals Toys 4 Tots Program, the SCC Corporate Challenge, the SCC Business Expo, and many other sponsorship opportunities that advance the CNMI community.

SCC board member Shayne Villanueva is grateful for Triple J's continued support of the scholarship tournament. "We'd like to say thank you to Triple J for donating the Mazda. They have always been a great partner for the golf community and for supporting our scholars."

The SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament slated for Saturday, Aug. 8, 2020, at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort's west course. The registration fee for public is \$120/per person (\$140 after Aug. 3). Chamber members and their scramble partners will enjoy a discounted rate of

\$110/member (\$120 after Aug. 3). Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipanchamber.com/our-events, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort (front desk) and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315. SCC encourages golfers to submit their forms and fees before Aug. 3 at the Chamber office.

Proceeds of the event are instrumental in supporting the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program.

For more information on how to donate to the SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament visit the SCC office in the Marianas Business Plaza Room, Suite 315 (Susupe), or contact Franco Santos at 670-234-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com. *(PR)*



Triple J Motors donates a 2019 Mazda MX-5 Club Sport Convertible valued at \$38,995 as a hole-in-one prize for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2020 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. *sc*

CHARLENE MANGLONA LIZAMA VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Commercial Cleaner - High School Diploma and at least 2 years work experience. salary \$7.69 to \$7.80 per hr. Interested applicants please call 287-3223 email: vicelizama@yahoo.com



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@ptc.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2020

Opening date: July 22, 2020

Closing date: August 11, 2020

Positions: (1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Dental Solutions

Looking for (1) one employee to work as
Insurance Claims Clerk
Temporary, Full-time (renewal)
Hourly rate from \$10.76 to \$15.40

- Must have a minimum (1) one year working experience in dental claims processing.
- Must be familiar with CDT dental procedure code and nomenclature.
- At least with associate degree in business administration or any related business course.

Applicants may submit his/her CV to mikehalldds@hotmail.com and also applicants may submit his resume during working hours from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM at the office locations in Microbeach Rd. Garapan Saipan, Northern Mariana Island. Applicants may also contact Dr. Michael Hall at telephone number 1 (670) 483-4868 or 1 (670) 233-3300 from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.



Employment Opportunities

Greenskeeper Supervisor: Must have 3 to 5 years-experience at a golf course with supervisory experience. You must be knowledgeable in maintaining greens, also dependable and able to motivate a crew. Also, scheduling and issuing daily assignments. Salary negotiated with experience.

Accounting Clerk also needed.

These positions include health and vacation benefits and increase after a 90-day probationary period. US citizens only.

To apply: Drop off résumé at the accounting office of Saipan Vegas Resort (next to McDonald's Middle Rd) Office located at the left side of property (white house with blue trim).

BE TO CORPORATION JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Sales Manager (Saipan, MP)

Maintain responsibility for performance of all sales activities within an assigned territory; Establish and strategically build a solid customer base; Analyze the sales process in an effort to refine and improve its success and establish sales reporting framework; Achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction with all customer interaction. Req: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration; Must have taken a course of "Strategic Management" and "Business Finance". Send Resume & Transcript to BE TO CORPORATION. ATTN: Young Ki LEE, P.O.BOX 7670 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950.

More than \$3.5M unemployment benefits released

The CNMI Department of Labor announced last Thursday that \$3,530,191 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation have been disbursed to eligible and approved claim-

ants, as of Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

All PUA/FPUC claims are processed in the order they were received. If all eligibility requirements are met and no disqualification is in effect, claims are batched

for processing. CNMI DOL and the CNMI Department of Finance are working in tandem to ensure benefits payments are disbursed on a daily basis.

Depending on the nature of how claimants would like

to receive their payments, disbursements can be made out within 1-2 business days (via direct deposit) or 7-10 calendar days (via mailed check). CNMI DOL encourages claimants to opt for direct deposit payments when

applying for PUA/FPUC.

CNMI DOL would like to remind the public that all information regarding its programs and unemployment assistance is vetted for accuracy before transmittal to the CNMI Office of the

Governor.

Continue to follow updates from CNMI DOL through local media partners and through the CNMI Office of the Governor's Facebook page and website at www.governor.gov.mp. **(PR)**

75 foreign workers receive relief goods

A group of Good Samaritans coordinated a relief goods distribution to 75 foreign workers Thursday in a bid to help them out since they are ineligible for the federally-funded Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

Tony Frank, Jae Carrico, and Candy Feliciano were able to distribute the care packages to furloughed foreign workers, with the intent to do similar more drives.

The food packages each contain 4 lbs of chicken, 2 lbs of ham, a dozen eggs, 3 lbs of rice, canned goods, potatoes, carrots, onion, garlic, and cabbage.

According to Carrico, "We have been reaching out to local government officials, so-

cial media and businesses to try and get awareness and support as much as possible."

"It all started with a gentleman who came up to me asking for assistance and my husband and I put a box for him because nobody should be running out of food," she added. The group felt like they needed to help those who are not eligible for federal aid and have been struggling since March.

Carrico said that they will be doing a dollar drive at the Beach Road intersection on Friday and Saturday. "There are about 380 people that signed up and we would like to raise more donations that

would help. We really need to put a lot of pressure on the government to include the CW-1 workers," she said, referring to the CW work visas of foreign workers.

One of the recipients later said, "This is such a big help for us. We have been struggling a lot since being furloughed. We have bills to pay and we worry about food every day to put on our tables. I thank this group of people who care about us."

Thousands of workers in the CNMI have been furloughed or have had their hours reduced due to the economic damage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mt. Carmel Cathedral has a new tower clock



KRIZEL TUAZON
The Mount Carmel Cathedral has a new tower clock, replacing the previous one destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu.

The Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 installed last Wednesday a new tower clock at the Mount Carmel Cathedral to replace the previous one destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Group leader Joel Subang said the local masonic lodge is more than happy to help with the restoration of the clock tower to its former glory. "The brotherhood advocates humility and charity, which is the core structure of a true mason," he said.

Previous leader, Bong Malasarte, said, "We feel so much fulfillment when we ac-

complished this community project to Mount Carmel."

Malasarte said in a previous interview that he felt like the church seemed incomplete without the tower clock every time he passes the cathedral. The plan was to put up the tower clock originally in November last year. However, due to COVID-19, the order for the manufacturer stopped until they resumed work last May. The total cost of the clock reached \$5,200. Funds were donated by other active mason groups, with the support of the Tuguegarao Masonic Lodge No. 408, Emon

Masonic Lodge No. 179's twin lodge.

"Thank you for your generous sharing for the tower clock of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Through your donations we have been able to accomplish our community projects and continue working as a team. We are extremely grateful to all who supported us," added Malasarte.

The turnover was held Thursday last week in front of the cathedral in the presence of Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, who expressed his appreciation for the generous donation. **(Chevy Alipio)**



CHEVY ALIPIO
A group of Good Samaritans coordinated a relief goods distribution to 75 foreign workers last Thursday.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: 670-234-6457
FAX: 670-234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD BUFTON, Plaintiff,)
vs.) CIVIL ACTION
SAMUEL RAYBURN, Defendant.) NO. 04-0043

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39,297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.

Total Area of the property:
39,297 square meters

Known encumbrances:
The interest to be sold is a fully -- prepaid leasehold interest which expires on May 31, 2042. There are no other known valid encumbrances materially affecting title.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 7, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of July, 2020:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Patricia Kapileo
P.O. Box 7684 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-2857

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF)
Rosa L. Peter) FCD GU
An Incompetent) CIVIL ACTION
By) NO. 20-0209
Patricia Kapileo)
Petitioner) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Patricia Kapileo, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of the said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 21st day of September, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

Bidders please be advised that NMHC IFB 2020-008 is Cancelled Until Further Notice

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:
July 21, 2020 July 31, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase and Installation of Lighting Fixtures for the Oleai Track and Field Facility

Project package will be available on June 19, 2020, at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on June 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios Corporate Director /s/ Vinney Atalig-Hocog Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE AMENDMENT NO. 1

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. Not more than ten (10) people are allowed in the conference room and social distancing will be enforced.

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes (December 13, 2019 and February 20, 2020)
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
- CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - Division Update Reports
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Video and/or Teleconferencing Policy for Approval
 - CDBG-DR Updates
 - Amended HOME Homebuyer and Homeowner P&P for Approval
- NEW BUSINESS
 - CDBG-DR Action Plan
 - LHIC Application Selection
 - Personnel Matters
 - URP Amendment in PHA Admin. Plan
 - Procurement Matters
 - ESG and ESG-CV Policies and Procedures
 - CDBG-CV Mortgage Payment Assistance
- LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- OTHER MATTERS
- ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ Vinney Atalig-Hocog
Chairman of the Board

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

John Lewis left us a better America

Right now, America needs heroes. And we have one for the ages in John Lewis.

His life of sacrifice in the name of the larger principles of freedom and equality and his career of service to his country are emblems of the better America we hope to be and the better America we can become.

In remembering him, we should remember that the struggle for equality is an enduring human struggle, that it will not come cheaply nor easily, that the path can be dangerous and the pain very real, and that it will almost certainly never be over.

We can remember too, though, that it can be rewarded—that things can get better—and that Lewis' sacrifice, along with those of the Freedom Riders and so many advocates for reform, bequeathed to us a better nation, where we more fully, if still imperfectly, embrace the individual dignity of each American and extend in law the protection of their basic human rights.

Lewis, who died at 80 Friday, had his skull cracked with a billy club as a young man to help bring us to this place where we are. And even as violence was done upon him, he rejected violence in return. The undeniable moral authority that he carried on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., in 1965 was the authority that finally mattered.

In considering his legacy, we must also consider the work that remains. Poverty, imprisonment and other legacies of slavery and codified racism still track our country. Lewis supported the marches in opposition of police violence against Black Americans and considered them an extension of his work as a young man.

We also hope, as we memorialize his life and all he did as a protester, organizer and congressman, that we don't fail to recognize the truth that his work mattered because it made a real difference in our country and in improving the lives of Black Americans. The America that John Lewis died in is not the same America he was born into as the child of sharecroppers. It is not the same America that disenfranchised Black Americans as a matter of law denied them basic human rights.

It is an America that took his search for justice and equality seriously, that cared his body was beaten and his skull fractured, that rejected the forces of inequality, segregation and racism.

That better America is an America we must work toward every day. The struggle is renewed over and over in each of us as individuals and in all of us as a society.

John Lewis has died. But in a good and ever better America, John Lewis will live forever.

(c)2020 The Dallas Morning News



Solutions? Here are some ideas

First of a two-part series

Editor's Note: The following is being published in two parts due to its length. The second part will be published tomorrow.

Dear Gov. Torres: Thank you for recently saying in an interview that you welcome criticism and posed a question to the public, especially your critics, in which you said, "What's your solution?"

Now that you have asked, is it possible to answer your question with you accepting this criticism and taking it to heart, without having to hear from your highly paid political advisers who lack the humility you try to exemplify? To date, have you asked your DPS Commissioner Robert DeLeon Guerrero to apologize for his explosive behavior at the Ways and Means hearing when Rep. Tina Sablan asked questions about the 11 officers who were unfairly furloughed? Because we have yet to hear one. The questions related to nepotism and unfair hiring and firing are valid complaints that were brought to the attention of several members of the House. Based on his answers, Commissioner Guerrero admitted to not following Civil Service rules and regulations on furloughs. What is the solution to this, governor? You can ask for an independent audit on the furloughs and the hiring practices of immediate family members.

As for solutions to what is going on right now?

For starters, you could visit the villages and see the real pain and suffering happening right now. While you were away for two weeks with Mr. Robert Arrington and friends and family visiting the Northern Islands, the people who elected you as governor were getting evicted from their homes, and trying to figure out how to pay for their power and water, and even put food on the table. Hunger and homelessness are real problems that must be addressed immediately.

One solution is to push for disaster food stamps, as was distributed after Yutu. If this is not possible, then please divert some of the COVID-19 funds to non-profit organizations like Empty Vessel Ministry and Karidat and Salvation Army to replenish their food banks so they can help feed families right now.

As for businesses struggling right now, please utilize COVID-19 funds as Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero did. Instead of increasing fees and taxes on businesses trying to survive, let's consider tax breaks or the lowering of fees. Every bit helps, and the government needs to do its part to help these businesses survive. If you can give carte blanche to Imperial Pacific and the casino industry and give them everything they have ever wanted and the kitchen sink, then you can do the same for small businesses, which are the backbone of every economy.

With regard to your two-week vacation to the Northern Islands, you most certainly are entitled to a two-week vacation, because everyone needs some time off. But what you are not

By EDWIN K. PROPST

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edwin K. Propst is a member of the House of Representatives in the CNMI Legislature.



entitled to is using local taxpayer funds to finance this vacation/promotion. If you honestly believe that this taxpayer-funded vacation is going to bring in high-end tourists that will spend millions of dollars in visiting the Northern Islands because they watched a YouTube star's video, then have I got some beautiful prime property to sell you on Farallon de Medinilla.

Speaking about FDM, let us not forget that it has been used for bombing target practice by the military since October 1971. In 1983, the U.S. government signed a 50-year lease with the CNMI for a measly \$20,600 while continuing to drop bombs on it. That equates to about the same amount of illegal overtime one of your Cabinet members made in three months for lifting boxes, or performing some other impossible feat that apparently no average front-line worker could do. But I digress and apologize.

While the vast majority of us islanders are pro-military because we love America and democracy and understand that freedom isn't free and comes with sacrifice, what we are not so fond of and unwilling to sacrifice is the desecration and destruction of our limited natural resources. Our land in the Commonwealth is scarce and sacred, and we do not want it bombed or polluted. We have an obligation to protect Pagan and every island in our Commonwealth.

While we welcome Mr. Robert Arrington back to the CNMI and thank him for promoting our islands, I would hope he could meet with some of our protectors of Pagan and guardians of Gani to explain the harmful, long-term effects bombing has on our ecosystem, because when interviewed, Mr. Arrington had this to say about the military and our islands:

"I think the military will help make it [Pagan] better. They will want to protect it and they will want to make it better...and they will want to clear the runway and the marina, whatever needs to be there, I think they will be behind that."

I highly recommend he meet with concerned community members who have made it their life mission to stop bombing and the destruction or taking of our precious natural resources. They have a lot of data and history they can share with him.

Gov. Torres, for the record, when I have guests visiting from off-island, I entertain them and will take some time off to do so,

See **SOLUTIONS** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop beating a dead horse and create civilian-military task force

It is time to stop the anti-American resolutions from the Legislature concerning military developments in the Northern Islands. That is a dead issue. No sense beating a dead horse, and creating animosity at the same time. The Commonwealth cannot afford that attitude at this time.

It is time to begin a proactive interaction with the military.

There is a section in the technical agreement to the Covenant that provides for the creation of a Tinian civilian-military task force. This task force was envisioned as a mechanism to solve problems that might develop on Tinian's military leased lands. Credit should be given to those who had the foresight. The House legal counsel can provide a copy of this section of the technical agreement to the members.

The roads on Tinian's military leased lands, now 75 years old, are deteriorating.

Tinian's cattlemen need amendments to the leaseback agreement, allowing them a longer lease to make capital improvements.

The historic sites on the military leased lands, a primary impetus for our tourism industry, are deteriorating.

These problems could be solved if the governor would autho-

rize the creation of this task force. Although requested by previous mayors, governors Fitial, Inos, and Torres have refused to respond to these requests.

If members of the Legislature would like to help do something positive for civilian-military relations, then Tinian needs a joint resolution from the Legislature, to Gov. Torres, recommending that the Tinian civilian-military task force be created, and conducted on Tinian.

Don Farrell

Marpo Heights, Tinian

Lee Pan wants suggestions...

First and foremost, leave the American Memorial Park alone. This is not the place for the CNMI to begin its economic recovery even if it were with good intentions. It's definitely not the place for backdoor deals. It's a veterans memorial and it should be reserved for honoring those sacrifices, not for digging the CNMI out of its glutony.

You want suggestions for earning additional revenue? Start with cleaning up all CNMI parks and beaches and make them presentable. Once that's done, charge park admissions at CNMI parks for all nonresidents or charge upon CNMI entry an All-Parks Pass as part of nonresident entry fee into the CNMI. This could be collected prior to being allowed to disembark from the airport. Another option is a leisure/recreation departure tax to all departing tourists. Japan has a sayonara tax it collects from every nonresident departing; that's about \$10 per person. Departure tax in China is roughly \$11 per person. Departure tax leaving Korea is about \$10. Departure from Yap, \$20. Departure from Pohnpei, \$20; Chuuk, \$20; Kosrae, \$15. Non-Palau passport holders, \$50 departure tax and green fee. Everyone does it except the CNMI.

Practically every tourist that visits the CNMI comes from a country that would charge CNMI residents a departure tax if we visited there, so why not charge them likewise? Charge 15% infrastructure/road tax to all tourists that rent a vehicle. Tourist hotel tax? This list could go on and on. Foreign investors hate these taxes but they will still invest. That said, the challenge is keeping foreign investors from stuffing

CNMI politicians' pockets.

This isn't rocket science. Stop lining politicians' greedy pockets with backdoor money from foreign investors and start charging tourists the same way every other tourist destination in the world does. Invest tourist tax revenue in tourist attractions and more tourists will come as facilities and beaches improve. Invest in your strengths. Beaches, dive sites, parks... The beaches could have nice covered cabanas, showers, and restrooms vice the junk we have.

Mica F. Cochran

Capital Hill, Saipan

CWs' plea

Dear Gov. Ralph DLG Torres: On behalf of all CW-1 workers whose status are still valid since the pandemic started, we would like to request your good office to consider the plight of all contract workers.

Like U.S. citizens, green card holders and EAD holders, we are also greatly affected by the impact of this unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic and are suffering financially like everyone else. Most of us work in private companies like hotels, restaurants, construction firms, and others that have been directly hit due to the closing of the airport, with zero tourist arrivals and flights temporarily suspended.

Majority of us either work with a very few hours or not at all. Others were furloughed or even had to exit due to CW-1 renewal issues and they will be going home with nothing at all.

We have continuously followed CNMI laws and policies and paid local and federal taxes despite the hardship we are all experiencing through this pandemic.

With rental fees, loans, and daily food expenses, we all have the same needs like the rest of the residents here.

With all of these, we are sincerely asking your good office to kindly consider CW-1 visa holders to be included in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. Thank you and may God bless us all.

Gerald Lacanilao Narciso

Susupe, Saipan

SOLUTIONS

From Page 8

so I can understand your two-week vacation. But I don't use federally funded boats and equipment and supplies to do so.

During the House Ways and Means Committee meeting with DPS Commissioner Guerrero, I was fortunate to be able to ask some questions as a non-member of the committee. Commissioner Guerrero admitted that there are only three DPS boats for Saipan and only two are operational because one is not working. Governor, there were two DPS boats that escorted you and Mr. Arrington and family and friends on this trip.

When I asked if this had impacted emergency operations for Saipan by taking these two boats, the commissioner said that they were not stationed there and were used for bringing supplies back and forth and that the boats would leave in the morning and come back in the evening, and that each way took six hours.

But if it took six hours to get to Pagan and six hours to get back, and probably a couple of hours to refuel and rest and prepare for the ride back, you are looking at about 14 hours of any given day that Saipan did not have high-speed search and rescue boats available in case someone went missing in our seas. This creates a problem.

What I also found out was that, while DPS had to furlough 11 employees because of the huge budget cuts, it was DPS that had to fund its own fuel and salaries and overtime for the DPS boating safety crew who went on this two-week vacation to provide safety and security. This trip was never budgeted for DPS, yet DPS had to absorb the costs. Is this fair to DPS, especially to those who were furloughed? Just the cost of fuel could have easily paid the annual salary of at least one of the 11 furloughed. Since you asked for solutions, I highly recommend you use some of the MVA money you used for this trip to pay for all fuel and all overtime and salary costs and any other incidentals paid for by DPS. This would be truly appreciated.

With regard to PUA and FPUC, our people need answers. The 10 numbers listed are nearly impossible to get through, perhaps due to the sheer volume trying to call in. Those who are qualified for PUA and have been waiting so long to receive it currently have no source of income and no way of paying bills. Fortunately, PUA will supposedly be paid out this week, but what about all those who are ineligible for PUA? Can you explain to them what help is available right now? I have recommended options but given the vast resources at your disposal, you may be able to provide better solutions, but would it be possible to work with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in promoting a temp agency that focuses on temporary work for those who are actively seeking employment? Just about any job could help right now.

To be continued tomorrow.

Tragic Tales of Tweeter Trump

I appropriated the title and the 13th line of the following sonnet from English poet Richard Lovelace (1617-1657).

'The Asp Doth on His Feeder Feed'

Tell me not to tweet and I get unkind
So from the White House I call a dump
I harass media with my unquiet mind
Warring against truth I lie and jump
Truth, my lawyer Giuliani says, is not truth
I lie to foes who cross the East lawn field
With vulgar mouth spout language uncouth
Campaigning, haranguing under an eagle shield
My insecurity and demagoguery is such
There are few issues I'm explicitly for
I love myself more than country so much
Each day I love my self, more and more
"Stone walls do not a prison make, nor
iron bars a cage."
I will commute and pardon my gang
with righteous rage.

They are Leaving Me

"...and do not remember that sometime
they put themselves in danger to take
bread at my hand; and now they range,
busily seeking with a continual change."
—Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503? - 1542)

They are leaving me, those that used to seek
I see the polls dropping week after week
Economic recovery is taking too much time
Sometimes I raise my campaign voice in anger
Speaking of things as through streets they range
Talking of systemic racism and need for change
It is not a dream and I'm slowly awakening

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



As the nation turns pandemic eyes against me
I'm the victim of a Democratic and media hoax
By the scientific community and even Dr. Fauci
Republican wheeler dealers have some rotten folks
But since I'm the best ever and still honestly serve
The base will come back; I'll get what I deserve.

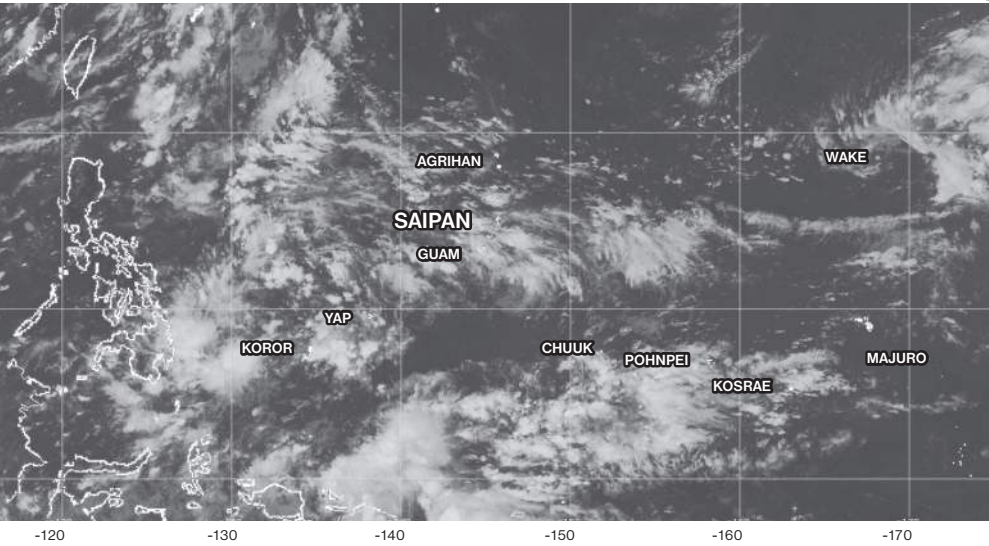
Trumpty Dumpty Falling Down

A haiku headline/senryu sonnet on it

A million book bump
'Too Much and Never Enough'
from niece Mary Trump.
Full of true Trumpty stuff
'Too Much and Never Enough'
million seller calls his bluff.
Prince of Malfeasance
inept in his incompetence
demanding obeisance.
Totally lacking in empathy
sadistic malevolence prevails
tea and sympathy fails.
Ashes of loathing in polls
a lonely soul rakes coals.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a chance of thunderstorms.		Cloudy with occasional heavy showers and a chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	87°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:17 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A complex weather pattern remains across the region with showers and thunderstorms increasing early this morning as a surface trough approaches from the east. An upper-level trough north of the Marianas extends southeastward from an upper low near 23N143E to another low near Wake Island at 19N167E. Buoys show seas of 3 to 5 feet across the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

- able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°	
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:57 AM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:02 AM	12:54 PM
Wednesday	-	12:48 AM	1:53 PM
Thursday	-	1:36 AM	2:52 PM
Friday	-	2:28 AM	3:52 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 75°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 64°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 73°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	89° / 80°	
New York	Thunderstorm	82° / 73°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	100° / 82°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°	
Busan	Sunny	90° / 81°	
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	86° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 57°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	91° / 79°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	80° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:39 AM	LOW TIDE	2.15	
7:19 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.76	
12:51 PM	LOW TIDE	1.72	
6:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.76	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 117	7:30AM	8:10AM	1,4,6	UA 174	5:50AM	6:30AM	1,4,6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA: United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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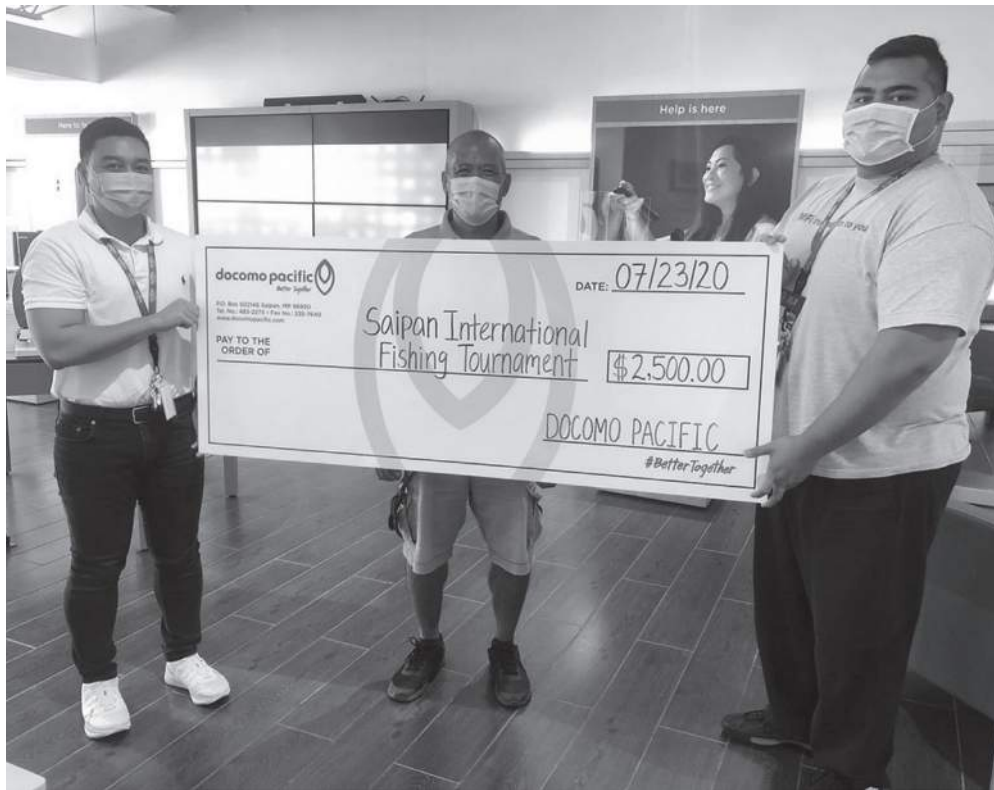
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Business

DOCOMO Pacific sponsors 36th Saipan International Fishing Tournament



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Brent Deleon Guerrero, CNMI brand owner, DOCOMO Pacific; Gene Weaver, president, Saipan Fishermen's Association; and Richard Mendiola, Customer Service lead, DOCOMO Pacific.

DOCOMO PACIFIC, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, has sponsored the 36th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament, the largest international fishing derby in the Marianas.

Fishing is deep in the Mariana Islands' culture. It is a skillset passed down from generation to generation that allows the opportunities for families to eat, share stories, and be together. Although our islands are navigating through uncharted waters with uncertainty from the ongoing pandemic, we must continue to rely on the things that matter most. The tournament took place last Saturday, July 25, and was an opportunity to

showcase our local fishermen and thank them for their community contributions.

As a returning sponsor of the Saipan International Fishing Tournament, DOCOMO Pacific is happy to once again provide its resources to further allowing our local people to demonstrate their skillset, while reuniting our recreational and business fishermen enthusiasts through a safe and annual fishing event. We remain committed to our people and community and look forward to the continued growth of the highly anticipated tournament in the years to come.

DOCOMO Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO, Japan's

leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, DOCOMO Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity, and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Named Guam's most reliable network, based on GWS' 2019 OneScore ranking. DOCOMO Pacific is also the four-time winner of Pika's Best of Guam and four-time winner of Best of The Pacific. DOCOMO PACIFIC is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. (PR)

BG Investment's Leon Guerrero earns AWMA SM designation

BG Investment Services, Inc.'s board of directors, management, and staff are proud to announce that vice president/managing investment advisor representative Alexandra Leon Guerrero, has earned the Accredited Wealth Management Advisor SM (AWMA) designation and is currently the only AWMA designee on island.



Leon Guerrero

The Accredited Wealth Management Advisor SM designation is awarded to those who successfully complete a course of study encompassing wealth strate-

gies, equity-based compensation plans, tax reduction alternatives, and asset protection alternatives, subsequently passing a comprehensive examination.

Hired in 2011, Leon Guerrero joined BG Investment Services, Inc. following five years with Merrill Lynch (Guam) as assistant vice president/financial advisor. Prior to that, she was with ASC Trust Company for five years as a Special Projects manager.

Leon Guerrero is a 2005 graduate of the University of

Guam's School of Business and Public Administration and holds the FINRA Series 66 License – Registered Investment Advisor (Guam, CNMI, and California). She holds the following Professional Designations: Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC) from the College for Financial Planning and Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF) from the Center for Fiduciary Studies fi360.

BG Investment Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of Bank-Guam Holding Company. For additional information, please contact a BG Investment Services representative at (671) 472-5490. (PR)

Nation

White House, GOP at odds over jobless aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Negotiations over a new COVID-19 rescue bill were in flux Friday after the White House floated cutting an unemployment benefits boost to as little as \$100 and President Donald Trump turned to a new priority, adding money to build a new FBI headquarters.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell sent senators home, promising a Republican proposal would be ready on Monday. Outraged Democrats warned that time was being wasted on GOP infighting as the virus worsens, jobless aid expires and the death toll rises.

"We call upon Leader McConnell to get serious," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer in a statement.

During a head-spinning week of start-and-stop efforts, McConnell abruptly halted the rollout of the Republicans' \$1 trillion plan, which was supposed to provide a counter-offer to the Democrats' \$3 trillion bill in an opening bid for negotiations. Trump was forced to abandon his push for a payroll

tax break, which his party opposed, and the White House turned to new priorities.

As Republicans struggled, the nation's infections topped 4 million, deaths rose by several thousand, to nearly 145,000, and the \$600 unemployment benefit boost for millions of out-of-work Americans was on track to expire.

As McConnell shut down the Senate, he promised to return with "a strong, targeted piece of legislation aimed directly at the challenges we face right now."

The GOP leader, who is up for reelection in November alongside Trump, dashed home to Kentucky for an event with the nation's drug czar, Jim Carroll, in a part of Appalachia confronting opioid addiction and skyrocketing overdose deaths.

As for the COVID-19 crisis, McConnell said in Ashland, Kentucky: "This has been one heck of a challenge for everybody in the country. Hopefully we can come together behind some package we can agree on in the next few weeks."

One sticking point for Republicans trying to resolve

their differences with the White House is how to cut the \$600 weekly jobless benefit boost that is expiring.

Republicans largely believe the add-on, which had been approved in an earlier aid bill, is too much and becoming a disincentive for returning to work. In some situations, the boost gives the unemployed more money than if they were working. Under McConnell's plan, senators proposed cutting it to \$200 and then transitioning over the next few months to a new system more closely linked to a state's own payment levels.

An administration official granted anonymity to discuss the private talks said the White House viewed the Senate GOP's proposal as too "cumbersome" and the \$200 boost as too high.

A number of different solutions were being discussed, the official said Thursday, including dropping the add-on to \$100.

Democrats warned time was running out. The benefit officially expires July 31, but due to the way states process unemployment payments, the cutoff is effectively Saturday.

With no new law to curb drug costs, Trump tries own changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unable to land the big deal with Congress to curb drug costs, President Donald Trump has moved on his own to allow imports of cheaper medicines, along with other limited steps that could have some election-year appeal.

At a White House ceremony Friday, Trump signed four executive orders. One was about importation. The others would direct drugmaker rebates straight to patients, provide insulin and EpiPens at steep discounts to low-income people, and use lower international prices to pay for some Medicare drugs.

Trump cast his directives as far-reaching, but they mostly update earlier administration ideas that have not yet gone into effect.

"I'm unrigging the system that is many decades old," he declared, promising "massive" savings.

Consumers may not notice immediate changes, since the orders must be carried out by the federal bureaucracy and could face court challenges.

Democrats, meanwhile, are eager to draw a contrast between Trump and their own sweeping plans to authorize Medicare to negotiate lower prices with pharmaceutical companies, an idea the president had backed as a candidate. A bill by Speaker Nancy Pelosi already passed the House and aligns with presidential candidate Joe Biden's approach.

Friday's event was definitely not the bill-signing the White House had once hoped for. Trump came into office complaining that pharmaceutical companies were "getting away with murder" and promising to bring them under control. Nearly four years later, things are much the same despite some recent moderation in price increases.

Trump pulled his punches, Pelosi said in a statement. "After promising that he would 'negotiate like crazy' for lower prescription drug prices, it is clear that President Trump meant not negotiate at all," she said, adding

that if Trump is serious about lowering prices he should tell Senate Republicans to pass her bill.

A drive to enact major legislation this year stalled in Congress. Although Trump told Republican senators that lowering prescription prices is "something you have to do," many remain reluctant to use federal authority to force drugmakers to charge less.

Meanwhile, congressional Democrats calculate that the election will strengthen their hand, and they'll finally be able to enact a law that authorizes Medicare to negotiate prices directly. Neither side in Congress has had an incentive to deal, and the White House has been unable to work Trump's will.

Last year the House did pass Pelosi's Medicare negotiations bill, which would have capped out-of-pocket drug costs for older people and expanded program benefits as well. It had no path forward in the Republican Senate, and the White House calls it unworkable.

Asia

OVER SUSPECTED OUTBREAK

N. Korea puts border city in lockdown

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un placed the city of Kaesong near the border with South Korea under total lockdown after a person was found with suspected COVID-19 symptoms, saying he believes “the vicious virus” may have entered the country, state media reported Sunday.

If the person is officially declared a virus patient, he or she would be the North’s first confirmed coronavirus case. North Korea has steadfastly said it has no single virus case on its territory, a claim questioned by outside experts.

The lockdown was declared Friday afternoon. The Korean Central News Agency said the suspected case is a runaway who had fled to South Korea years ago before illegally crossing the border into the North early last week.

KCNA said respiratory secretion and blood tests showed the person “is suspected to have been infected” with the virus. It said the suspected case and others who were in contact as well as those who have been to Kaesong in the last five days were placed under quarantine.

Describing its anti-virus efforts as a “matter of national existence,” North Korea earlier this year shut down nearly all cross-border traffic, banned foreign tourists and mobilized health workers to quarantine anyone with symptoms. But the Kaesong lockdown is the first such known measure taken in a North Korean city to stem the pandemic.

Foreign experts say a coronavirus outbreak in North Korea could cause dire con-



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends an emergency Politburo meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea Saturday, July 25, 2020.

sequences because of its poor public health care infrastructure and chronic lack of medical supplies.

Kaesong, a city with an estimated 200,000 people, is located just north of the heavily fortified land border with South Korea. It once hosted the Koreans’ jointly run industrial complex, which remains stalled since 2016 amid nuclear tensions. Last month, North Korea blew up an inter-Korean liaison office in Kaesong to protest a campaign by South Korean activists who have been sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

During an emergency Politburo meeting Saturday, Kim also declared a state of emergency in the Kaesong area and “clarified the determination of the Party Central Committee to shift from the state emergency anti-epidemic system to the maximum emergency system and issue a top-class alert,” KCNA said.

It quoted Kim as saying that there was “a critical situation in which the vicious virus

could be said to have entered the country,” Kim said he took “the preemptive measure of totally blocking Kaesong City and isolating each district and region from the other within July 24 afternoon just after receiving the report on it,” according to KCNA.

The Politburo meeting also discussed the “loose guard performance” at the border area where the suspected case crossed over to North Korea.

KCNA said that Kim and other leaders were briefed on the results of an intensive investigation of a military unit responsible for the border crossing case and discussed administering “a severe punishment.”

More than 33,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea over the past 20 years to avoid poverty and political suppression, mostly via the long, porous border with China. But it’s rare for North Korean refugees to return to their homeland by crossing the mine-strewn inter-Korean border.

Beijing partly reopens movie theaters as virus declines

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing partially reopened movie theaters Friday as the threat from the coronavirus continues to recede in China’s capital.

Cinemas in parts of the city deemed at low risk of cross-infection began admitting moviegoers under social distancing rules. Tickets must be booked in advance, attendance is capped at 30% of capacity and no eating or drinking is allowed during the show.

As with most venues in China, a temperature check and online travel record were required for entry. Cinemas have been closed for around six months but began reopening this week in major cities throughout the country.

China reported just 21 new virus cases on Friday, six of

them imported, with the rest in the Xinjiang region and Jilin province. Beijing has gone more than two weeks without any cases of local transmission, spurring authorities to lift many restrictions on activities.

Tickets at Poly International Cinema’s branch near Tiananmen Square were sold out Friday, with the marquee boasting the comedy Dolittle and superhero attraction Bloodshot. China’s domestic movie industry has also been generating major ticket sales while audiences have warmed to features from India and other foreign countries.

Movie poster designer Liu Jingyu managed to grab tickets for both Hollywood films shown at the Poly cinema, rekindling his hopes after seeing

his earnings dry up over the past half-year.

“For us who make a living on movies and who are movie enthusiasts, without movies, our life is full of pain,” Liu said.

Chinese are enthusiastic moviegoers and the country was expected to surpass the U.S. this year as the world’s biggest box office before the pandemic hit.

Li Xu, manager of the Poly cinema branch, said he is looking forward to the October National Day holiday when he expected the movie market would return to normal. The weeklong vacation is typically huge for ticket sales, with Chinese cinemas generating a record 5 billion yuan (\$708 million) from Sept. 30 to Oct. 7 last year.

World

French infections rise, Spain cracks down on nightclubs

PARIS (AP)—France’s coronavirus infection rate crept higher Saturday and Spain cracked down on nightlife but German authorities were confident enough to send a cruise ship out to sea with 1,200 passengers for a week-end test of how the cruise industry can begin to resume.

French health authorities said the closely watched “R” gauge is now up to 1.3, suggesting that infected people are contaminating 1.3 other people on average. That means the virus still has enough victims to keep on going instead of petering out.

France’s daily new infections are also rising—up to 1,130 on Friday. Health authorities warned that the country is going backward in its battle against the pandemic, which has already killed at least 30,195 people in the country and that infection indicators now resemble those seen in May, when France was coming out of its strict two-month lockdown.

“We have thus erased much of the progress that we’d achieved in the first weeks of lockdown-easing,” health authorities said, adding that the French appear to be letting down their guard during their summer vacations and those testing posi-

tive are making less of an effort to self-isolate.

They appealed for a return to “collective discipline,” asking people to work from home and get tested if they have any suspicions of infection.

In Spain, Catalonia became the latest region to crack down on nightlife, trying to tamp down on new infection clusters. The wealthy northeast region home to Barcelona ordered all nightclubs to close for 15 days and put a midnight curfew on bars in the greater Barcelona area and other towns around Lleida that have become contagion hot zones.

Spain has reported over 900 new daily infections for the last two days as authorities warn that the country that lost over 28,000 lives before getting its outbreak under control could be facing the start of a second major outbreak.

Despite the concerns, some European countries kept up their gradual reopenings Saturday.

Swimming pools and gyms in England were back in business as public health officials extolled the benefits of exercise in fighting COVID-19. Britain announced a fresh attack on obesity as

part of the move, hoping that a fitter nation might be able to minimize the impact of future waves of the virus.

A German cruise ship set sail for the first time since the industry was shut down. “Mein Schiff 2” sailed from the port of Hamburg toward Norway on Friday night, and passengers will spend the weekend at sea with no land stops before returning to Germany on Monday. The ship had only 1,200 people on board compared with its normal 2,900 capacity.

But with many other cruise companies now looking toward trips in 2021, interest was sure to be high in how Germany, which has been praised for its handling of the pandemic, can kick off the struggling cruise industry.

In other parts of the world, the pandemic appeared to have the upper hand.

India, which has the world’s third-highest infections behind the United States and Brazil, reported its death toll rose by 740 to 30,601. It saw a surge of more than 49,000 new cases, raising its total to over 1.2 million. The Home Ministry issued an advisory calling for Independence Day celebrations on Aug. 15 to avoid large gatherings.

Gazans defy taboos to rescue, neuter stray animals

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—In the impoverished Gaza Strip, where most people struggle to make ends meet amid a crippling blockade, the suffering of stray dogs and cats often goes unnoticed.

Said el-Er, who founded the territory’s only animal rescue organization in 2006, has been trying to change that. He and other volunteers rescue dogs and cats that have been struck by cars or abused and nurse them back to health—but there are too many.

So in recent weeks they have launched Gaza’s first spay-and-neuter program. It goes against taboos in the conservative Palestinian territory, where feral dogs and cats are widely seen as pests and many view spaying and neutering as forbidden by Islam.

“Because the society is Muslim, they talk about halal (allowed) and haram

(forbidden),” el-Er said. “We know what halal is and what haram is, and it’s haram (for the animals) to be widespread in the streets where they can be run over, shot or poisoned.”

Islam teaches kindness toward animals, but Muslim scholars are divided on whether spaying and neutering causes harm. Across the Arab world, dogs are widely shunned as unclean and potentially dangerous, and cats do not fare much better.

El-Er and other advocates for the humane treatment of animals face an added challenge in Gaza, which has been under an Israeli and Egyptian blockade since the Islamic militant group Hamas seized power in 2007. Gaza’s 2 million residents suffer from nearly 50% unemployment, frequent power outages and heavy travel restrictions.

With many struggling to meet basic needs, animal care

is seen as a waste of precious resources or a luxury at best. El-Er’s group, Sulala for Animal Care, relies on private donations, which can be hard to come by.

El-Er says his team can no longer keep up with the number of injured animals that they find or that are brought to the clinic. “The large number of daily injuries is beyond our capacity,” he said. “That’s why we resorted to neutering.”

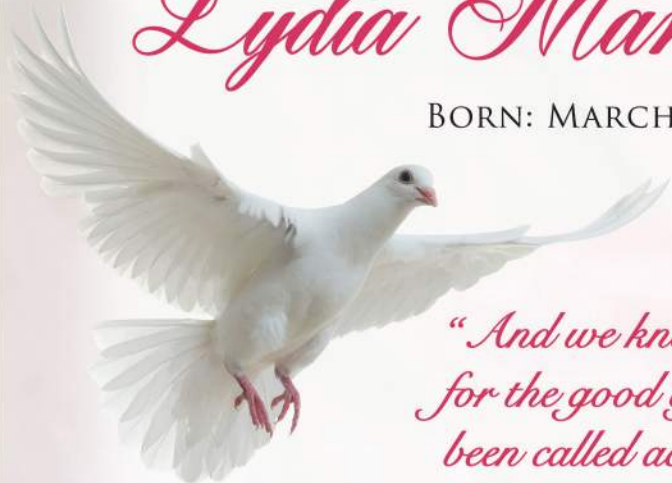
On a recent day, volunteers neutered a street dog and two cats that had been brought in. There are few veterinary clinics and no animal hospitals in Gaza, so they performed the operations in a section of a pet store that had been cleaned and disinfected.

“We have shortages in capabilities, tools, especially those needed for orthopedic surgeries,” said Bashar Shehadeh, a local veterinarian. “There is no suitable place for operations.”

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Lydia Maria Finona Duenas Igitol

BORN: MARCH 18, 1950 • CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE: JULY 20, 2020



"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

-Romans 8:28

In her new life, she is reunited with her:

Parents: †Vicente D. Duenas and †Maria F. Duenas
Parents-in-law: †Pablo N. Igitol and †Ana L. Igitol
Brothers: †Juan F. Duenas and †Joseph F. Duenas
Sister: †Maria F. Duenas
Brothers-in-law: †Sabino L. Igitol, †Esteban L. Igitol, †Jesus L. Igitol, †Antonio L. Igitol, †Samuel L. Igitol, †Daniel L. Igitol
Sisters-in-law: †Bernadita L. Igitol, †Consolacion L. Igitol

She will live forever in the hearts of her loving:

Husband: David L. Igitol
Children/Grandchildren:
Marciana I. & Robert N. Magoffia: Dustin and Sylvia (Don Juan, Nolana, Phaedra, Dustin Jr.), Eli Robert
Laura I. & LeeRoy M. Camacho: Vince David, Davileen Marie
Daisy I. & Clinton O. Ngiraked: Charisse, Lyandra, Spencer, Lena, Leala, Samuel
Maribel Igitol & Byron Castro: Anella Jane, Byron Jaxton, Kobe, Kaleigh
Caretaker: Cathy Dic. Acuvera

Brothers & Sisters:

Benjamin F. Duenas & Family
 Scott F. and Carrie Duenas & Family
 Joaquin F. Duenas
 Anita D. and Jesus Benavente & Family
 Carmen Duenas and Elonie Olivero & Family
 Frances D. and Jack Pearson

Brothers and Sisters-in-law

Pedro JL and Matilde Igitol & Family
 Delfina L. and Stanley Russel & Family
 Martin L. and Marlyn Igitol & Family
 Leonisa I. and Ken Kato & Family
 Rosa Igitol & Antonio Rogolifoi & Family

Reared Sons: Jesse John Stephen, David Malwelbug

Best Friends: Jessica P. Camacho and Janice Sablan

She will be greatly missed by numerous relatives, godchildren and friends



Our beloved Lydia will be laid to rest on **Wednesday, July 29, 2020**, at **Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag**. Responso and public viewing will begin at **8:30am**. The **Mass of Christian Burial** will be celebrated at **11:00 AM** followed by interment service at the **Tanapag Cemetery** where she will be laid to rest peacefully with the Lord.

Please observe social distancing and wear a face mask or covering.
 Your cooperation and understanding of everyone is greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Tphilisow

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Glad in black leggings and grip socks, Katy Winter strides into Vita, her Oakland, Calif.-based fitness studio. She's all primed to teach a power Pilates class to a group of clients, only the place is completely empty.

No worries. Winter unfurls a yoga mat upon the gleaming wooden floor, props her MacBook laptop on a cushioned stool and gazes into the screen. Twelve faces in little Zoom squares smile back at her.

"How are you holding up?" she asks. "Go ahead and start your playlists, and let's get going, everyone!"

Behold the virtual new fitness normal. Ordered to close their doors as part of the COVID-19 lockdown, resilient gyms, dance studios and other facilities have turned to online platforms to help participants stay active, get motivated and find their Zen without leaving their living rooms.

It's a far cry from the days when Jane Fonda, all aglow in neon spandex, urged millions to get their sweat on via VHS videotapes. But with modern audio-visual technology making real-time interaction possible, the rise of—and return to—home fitness has proven a blessing on many levels.

"We've had some of our clients talk about how they're dealing with depression and anxiety during these challenging times. How they're crying all day and can't get off the couch," Winter says. "I tell them, just try giving us 45 minutes or so. Get the blood flowing. You'll feel so much better."

Of course, the instructors and facilities also benefit, as the coronavirus closures have many of them struggling to stay afloat.

Jordan Schreiber, who owns the ATA Martial Arts Leadership Academy in Martinez, is facing his biggest fiscal hurdle ever, and that's saying a lot, considering he opened his business in 2007—just as the recession started to hit.

"That was nothing compared to this," he says. "This has been incredibly brutal."

Stefan Trandafirescu, a dance instructor who owns The Rose Ballroom in San Jose, can relate. With his revenue in a free-fall and a strident landlord offering no breaks in rent, he claims the recent months have been "very, very painful."

And so they're forced to adapt or wither away. To survive, many of them are leaning into things that weren't exactly in their wheelhouse: working with camera equipment, video monitors, headsets and unfamiliar software platforms—all while trying to hone their on-screen magnetism.

"That's part of the fun and the challenge of it," says Randy Myers, a Berkeley-based personal trainer and group exercise instructor, who is known to encourage his charges with virtual fist-bumps. "Fortunately, I like to learn new things."

Shabnam S. Wright is on the same page. An award-winning belly dancer who runs the Shabnam Dance Studio in Oakland and teaches classes via Skype, she says the pandemic has been "good in a way"—pushing her to rethink her approach to instruction.



While there are precautions you can take to make sure that your gym visit is as safe as possible, the best thing to do to avoid disease is to stay home.

At-home fitness experiences a pandemic-era resurgence

By **CHUCK BARNEY**
THE MERCURY NEWS

"A business can't do things just one way," she says. "This has forced us to be innovative."

And amazingly creative. With instructors unable to rely on studios packed with familiar equipment, they've had to improvise.

"We try to think of what people have at home," says Winter, who has had clients use "weird props" like women's tights for stretch bands, a roll of toilet paper for inner thigh work and wine bottles in place of light dumbbells.

"You just have to be careful not to smash them," she says.

Schreiber has had to be even more imaginative. Recently, he and his staff administered skill tests to more than 100 martial arts students, who, under normal circumstances, would perform them in-studio and alongside sparring partners. Instead, the tests were carried out on Zoom with students challenged to respond to the teachers' virtual "attacks."

As for the subsequent rank ceremony, it became a drive-through affair with masked staff members adhering to social distancing edicts by using extender poles to pass the colored belts to students, who remained in their cars.

And then there's Terez Orr, a dancer and instructor with Smuin Ballet in San Francisco. Unable to work with pupils at the company's new facility on Potrero Hill, she had Marley flooring—professional dance flooring—installed in the kitchen of her snug San Francisco apartment. From there, she administers lessons via Zoom to ballet students who, of course, had to make their own in-



home modifications.

"It's a challenge to find the proper height for the bar, which normally would be mounted on a wall," she says. "They can use a chair or a table, but that might not always be stable ... And we try to do small jumps instead of big ones."

Naturally, there are downsides to the online transition. The instructors refer to the loss of personal connection and the in-room group energy. Myers had to move some of his on-

line sessions from his home into his backyard after his cat became a nuisance. Now, he occasionally frets over whether a lawn-mowing neighbor might ruin the vibe.

"There are so many things you don't encounter in a gym," he says.

And Orr admits that certain tutorials simply can't be done remotely.

"I'm a very hands-on instructor," she says. "It's difficult sometimes not being able to physically correct something a student might be getting

wrong. I also worry about the safety of the spaces they're working in. I don't want them falling over any furniture!"

Trandafirescu and his ballroom dancing partner, Carolyn Barreno, lament the loss of bonds they formed with young couples taking lessons in preparation for weddings that now have been canceled or indefinitely postponed. And they miss the group-dancing socials often held at The Rose Ballroom.

"Those are a chance for everyone to see friends, connect, mingle and talk," Barreno says. "And it's a time when you can ask different partners to dance. Obviously, all that has vanished."

Still, there are significant benefits to the online movement. Several instructors acknowledge that the video tutorials have helped them reach a broader audience, attracting clients outside the Bay Area who appreciate the convenience and otherwise wouldn't make the trek to the brick-and-mortar outlets.

Also, adds Orr, there's a certain "safety net" to home exercise.

"Some people just feel more comfortable learning on their own, outside of a group situation," she says.

Maura Smith, a Berkeley resident who has participated in online classes with Myers, counts herself among them.

"I've been willing to try certain things—like Pilates and dance—that I normally wouldn't," she admits. "I have a fear of failure. So I often avoid things that I'm not familiar with, especially in group situations."

Monica Albe of Richmond harbors similar sentiments. When taking on-line Zoom classes provided by the UC Berkeley recreational sports fitness program, she can see the instructor but chooses an option that prevents others from seeing and hearing her.

"I love that I can be a bum and anonymous," she says. "I can be sweaty and a complete dork but still feel like I'm part of something cool. It's much better than a Netflix workout video because it's live, and the (trainer) is someone I can actually talk to. And I know I can ask for help through the chat function if I need it."

Orr is convinced that the pandemic-era streaming workouts have been just as valuable for her as they've been for her clients.

"It's a reminder that we'll be OK and can get through this together," she says. "To feel that collectively, through a computer screen, is pretty amazing."

And also incredibly uplifting, according to Wright.

"A lot of people aren't moving right now," she says. "They're stuck inside, on the couch or at a work desk. Their hips are locking up. We need to move. We need to dance. We need to be happy and tune in to our bodies."

All of which brings up the question: Is the Zoom-ified at-home streaming fitness craze here to stay—even post-pandemic? Or will it go the way of Jane Fonda's playful-peppy workout videos?

"I've heard from a lot of people that 'this works for me,'" Myers says. "So I think that from here on out, the online classes will at least be part of the mix for many of us. It's redefining what we can offer."

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Life & Style

Regis Philbin, television personality and host, dies at 88

NEW YORK (AP)—Regis Philbin, the genial host who shared his life with television viewers over morning coffee for decades and helped himself and some fans strike it rich with the game show “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,” has died at 88.

Philbin died of natural causes Friday night, just over a month before his 89th birthday, according to a statement from his family provided by spokesman Lewis Kay.

Celebrities routinely stopped by Philbin’s eponymous syndicated morning show, but its heart was in the first 15 minutes, when he and co-host Kathie Lee Gifford—on “Live! with Regis and Kathie Lee” from 1985-

2000—or Kelly Ripa—on “Live! with Regis and Kelly” from 2001 until his 2011 retirement—bantered about the events of the day. Viewers laughed at Philbin’s mock indignation over not getting the best seat at a restaurant the night before, or being henpecked by his partner.

“Even I have a little trepidation,” he told The Associated Press in 2008, when asked how he does a show every day. “You wake up in the morning and you say, ‘What did I do last night that I can talk about? What’s new in the paper? How are we gonna fill that 20 minutes?’”

“I’m not gonna say it always works out brilliantly, but somehow we connect more of-

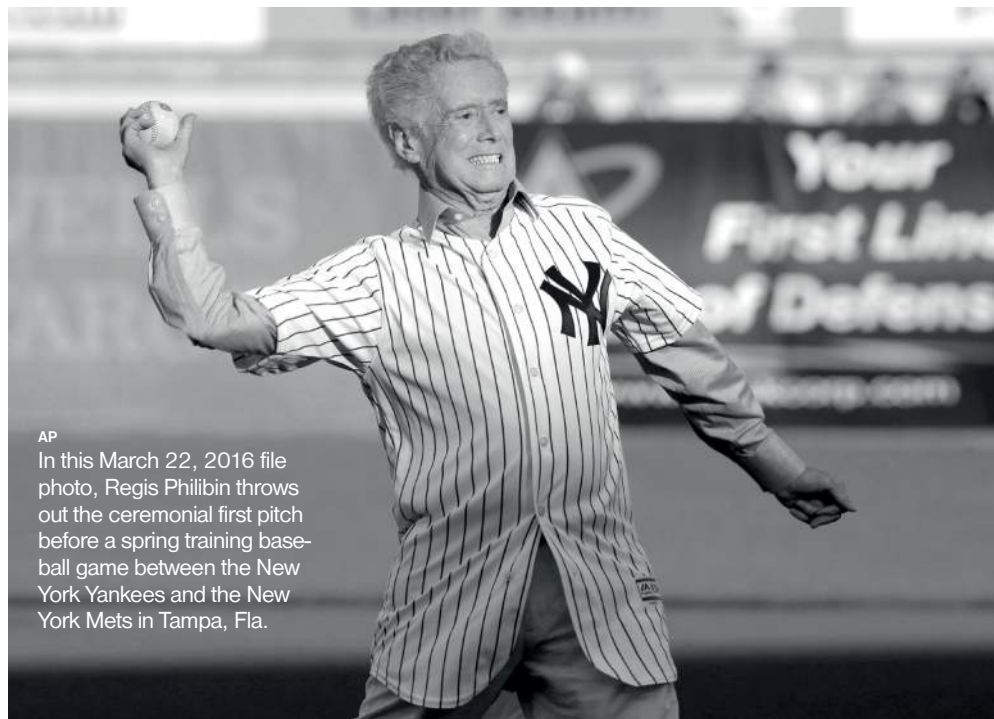
ten than we don’t,” he added.

“One of the greats in the history of television, Regis Philbin has passed on to even greater airwaves,” President Donald Trump said in a tweet. “He was a fantastic person, and my friend.”

Ripa and her current partner, Ryan Seacrest, called Philbin “the ultimate class act, bringing his laughter and joy into our homes every day.”

“There are no words to fully express the love I have for my precious friend, Regis,” Gifford said Saturday on Instagram. “I simply adored him and every day with him was a gift.”

The tributes flooding in over social media read like blurbs for a movie Philbin would promote: “Always made me laugh”—Tony Bennett. “One of a kind”—Henry Winkler. “A lovely man”—Rosie O’Donnell. “His wit was only surpassed by his huge heart”—Meredith Vieira. “As



AP
In this March 22, 2016 file photo, Regis Philbin throws out the ceremonial first pitch before a spring training baseball game between the New York Yankees and the New York Mets in Tampa, Fla.

wonderful a man as he was talented”—Paul Reubens, also known as Pee-Wee Herman. “You were the best”—LeVar Burton.

After hustling into an entertainment career by parking cars at a Los Angeles TV station, Philbin logged more than 15,000 hours on the air, earning him recognition in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most broadcast hours logged by a TV person-

ality, a record previously held by Hugh Downs.

“Every day, you see the record shattered, pal!” Philbin would tell viewers. “One more hour!”

He was host of the prime-time game show, “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,” briefly television’s most popular show at the turn of the century. ABC aired the family-friendly program as often as five times a week. It generated around \$1

billion in revenue in its first two years—ABC had said it was the more profitable show in TV history—and helped make Philbin himself a millionaire many times over.

Philbin’s question to contestants, “Is that your final answer?” became a national catchphrase. Philbin was even a fashion trendsetter; he put out a line of monochromatic shirts and ties to match what he wore on the set.

Mel Gibson has recovered after coronavirus hospitalization

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson spent a week in a Los Angeles hospital in April after testing positive for COVID-19, his representative said Friday.

The 64-year-old actor and director has completely recovered and is doing “great” according to the rep. He also said Gibson has tested negative “numerous times” since then.

Gibson is the latest in a long string of high profile figures to go public with coronavirus diagnoses and recoveries including Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson,

George Stephanopoulos and the singer Pink.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and those with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness and even be fatal.

The U.S. has more than 4 million known cases of the coronavirus, with more than 140,000 deaths, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Depp’s lawyers play video showing Heard ‘attacked’ sister

LONDON (AP)—Amber Heard’s sister denied Friday that she had lied to a London court after Johnny Depp’s lawyers in his libel suit against a British tabloid presented video footage that they claim showed his ex-wife was violent towards her.

His legal team said they received the video from a “confidential” source on Thursday night, hours after Whitney

Henriquez testified in court that she had never been attacked by Heard and that she was not frightened of her.

Depp, 57, is suing News Group Newspapers, the publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper’s executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that labeled the actor a “wife beater.” Depp has told the court that he was the one abused by Heard and

that she had a history of being violent toward him.

The Sun’s defense relies on 14 allegations made by Heard of violence by Depp between 2013 and 2016, in settings as varied as a rented house in Australia, his private island in the Bahamas and a private jet.

The video at the heart of the court proceedings Friday, the final session before the two sides sum up their argu-

ments, was unused reality TV footage from 2006 or 2007, according to Depp’s lawyers, and shows Henriquez by a pool with a group of female friends. One of them is heard saying, “Did you get in a fight or something?” and “I can’t believe Amber beat your ass.” Another appears to inspect Henriquez’s cheek and arm, and Henriquez says she is not going to talk about it.

Disapproval of pregnancy becomes permanent rift

DEAR ABBY: I became pregnant with my second child in 2013. When my extended family heard the news, it was not well-received, particularly by my grandmother and aunt-in-law. They said things like, “We love you, but we’re embarrassed and ashamed.” My once loving grandmother said some particularly cruel things.

I have to be honest -- I was angry. I swore at her after she accused me of “using” my partner of 10 YEARS to get pregnant. The gossip and hateful comments from my family shocked me to my core. I wasn’t asking for a blessing, but unconditional love from this God-fearing woman was definitely expected.

Fast-forward to now: My grandmother continues to hold anger and resentment toward me. She says it’s because I’ve “sullied our family name.” I apologized for my outburst, but she won’t forgive me. Now my uncle is blaming me for her poor health! I have forgiven her, but when I took my kids to her house, she slammed the door in our faces. I’m at a loss about how to fix this. Should I say, “So long, farewell”? What can I do?

GIANT MESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR MESS: The person responsible for your grandmother’s poor health isn’t you — it’s her. It’s not unheard of for people who hang onto anger and resentment the way she does to make themselves sick. That she would slam the door

in the faces of her great-grandchildren is reprehensible.

You haven’t sullied the family name, and you cannot fix this by yourself. The healthiest thing you can do, for yourself AND your children, is move forward and don’t look back.

DEAR ABBY: My family and I are planning a get-together. It has been several months since we have been together because of the pandemic. Our younger brother has a new girlfriend who was introduced to everyone at the last get-together.

That day, one sister mentioned a political proposition that was up for a vote in her state. The new girlfriend kept repeating “No politics!” every time my sister started talking about it. My sisters and I think it was very rude.

Now the new girlfriend will be in my home, and I am sure politics will be a topic of conversation, considering the current economic, political and health crises going on. My family likes discussing current events, and I don’t feel we should be silenced because of a guest. How should this be handled so as to not offend and distance our brother’s new girlfriend, but allow us to continue having conversations that are meaningful to us as a family?

OUTSPOKEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR OUTSPOKEN: Someone, preferably your broth-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

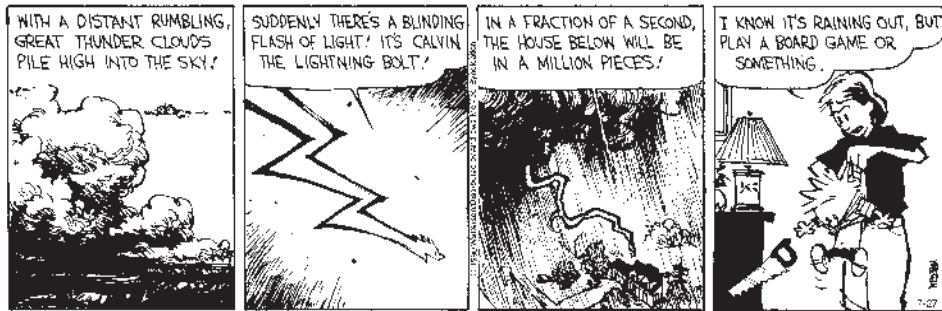
er, should have a chat with this woman before the next family gathering and make clear that your family enjoys talking about current events—politics included—and she does not have the right to dictate to the rest of you what you can or cannot talk about. If the subject makes her uncomfortable, she should either move to another room or skip the event. This does not have to be said unkindly, but the rest of you should not be expected to kowtow to her.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

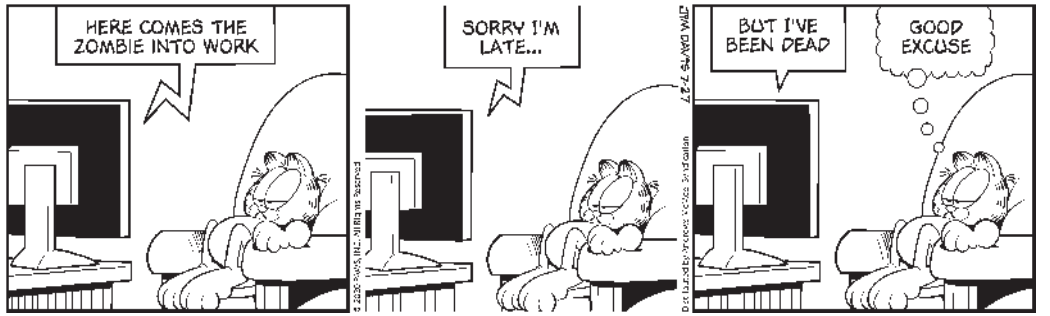
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



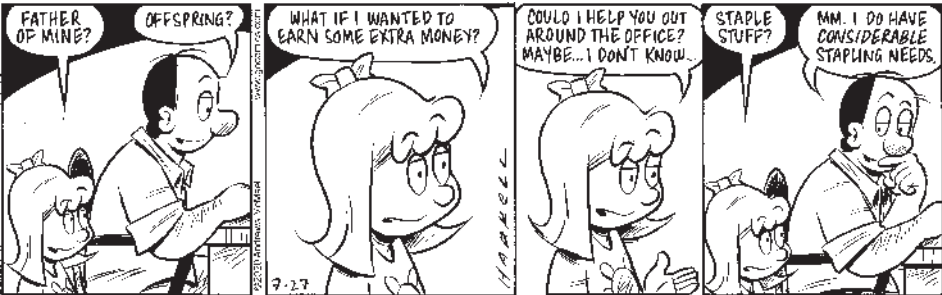
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Protrude
4 More learned
9 X-ray's cousin
12 Nigeria's cont.
13 "— you!" (chal- lenger's cry)
14 Author Fleming
15 Kingly color
17 "Fresh Air" ailer
18 — carte
19 Nebraska river
21 Tacit
24 Crystal- tapping sound
25 Actress Gretchen
26 Swelled head
28 Designer Kamali
31 School support orgs.
33 "Mangia!"
35 Inert gas
36 Attack
38 Game caller

DOWN

40 Finale
41 Ms. Brockovich
43 Stealthily quiet
45 Car part that purrs
47 Twitch
48 Sailor
49 Lipstick shade
54 Hot tub
55 Rainbow
56 Flightless bird
57 "Rah!"
58 Optimistic
59 Otto — Bismarck
1 Honey holder

10 Engrossed
11 Concerning
12 Flying saucer
13 Attempt
14 Mays of baseball
15 Employ- ee's security pass
16 Small battery
17 Shortly
18 Diamond heads?
19 Memo
20 Charcoal- like color
21 Crew tool
22 Monastery man
23 "Ocean's Eleven" actor
24 Garcia
25 Ganges
26 In-house wrap
27 In-house trial
28 Colors lightly
29 Coquet- tish
30 India's first P.M.
31 Glacial
32 Online crafts site
33 Wine valley
34 Very long time
35 Speed (up)
36 Punk rock offshoot
37 Press for payment

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 07/27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Schilling, 36; Jonathan Rhys Meyers, 43; Cassandra Clare, 47; Maya Rudolph, 48.

Happy Birthday: Look at what you want to achieve, and put your energy behind the blueprint you mapped out for the upcoming year. Stop worrying about what everyone is doing, and concentrate on what's important to your survival. Expect someone to put emotional pressure on you, and be ready to make adjustments to ensure it won't happen again. Choose to ease stress. Your numbers are 4, 17, 20, 28, 32, 34, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spice up your life. Make personal and physical changes that will add pizzazz and push you into the spotlight, where you can make a difference. Change begins with you, so stop waiting and start doing. Romance is on the rise. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep everyone guessing. Don't commit to anything until you are sure it's what you want to do. If a change isn't going to make your life better, take a pass until something else comes along. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't settle for less. If you want more, do what's necessary and don't complain. Take charge of your life before someone tries to take over. Be direct, and do whatever it takes to please yourself. Make independence a priority. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are overdue for a change. Look at your options, and consider how best to use your skills to get ahead. Look at a partnership proposal carefully, and consider the motives involved be-

fore you engage in something that may compromise you. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get involved in something that moves and inspires you. Gather knowledge, pick up skills and focus on what's important to you. Refuse to let an emotional incident result in an undesirable change. Keep the peace, and avoid arguments. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A small change will make a big difference. Look at your options, and offer better alternatives. Intelligence will override inconsistency and emotional tactics to manipulate situations. Do what's right, and associate with those who bring out the best in you. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spend more time nurturing essential relationships and making personal changes that make you feel and look your best. Refuse to let anyone bring you down or put you in a vulnerable position. Say no to demanding people. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll find it difficult to make up your mind and control your emotions. Learn from the experience, and you'll recognize what you have to do to get what you want. Intelligent, practical ideas will help you do what's right. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Spend time tidying up unfinished business. Clear the way for better projects.

Set your sights on long-term plans and updating contracts that can save or make you money. Show others what you have to offer. Less talk and more action are required. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take what you do best to a whole new level. Update your skills, technology and attitude, and you'll step into a position that suits your lifestyle. A change at home conducive to added income looks inviting. Expand your interests. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't feel you have to do what someone else is doing. Consider what brings you the most joy, and head in that direction. Personal improvements will energize you and give you the confidence to present and promote what you have to offer. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on contracts, health, legal and money matters. How you approach others will determine the response you get. Question anything that doesn't sound realistic or honest, and make sure someone's motives are honorable before you commit. *****

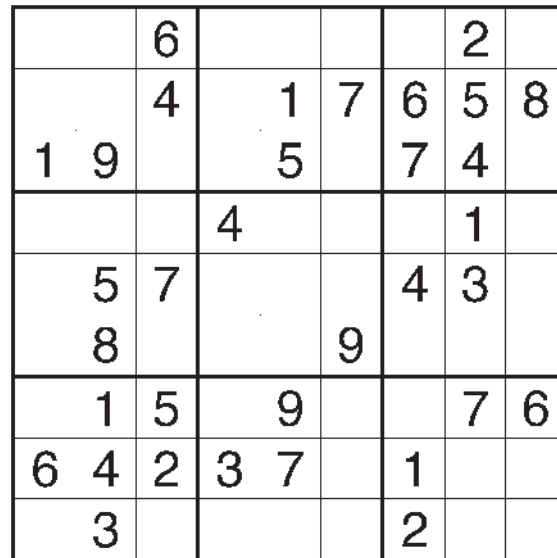
Birthday Baby: You are energetic, playful and passionate. You are aggressive and sensitive.

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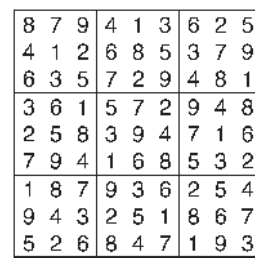
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

7/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MIGRAINES HURT

Solution: 7 letters



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Last Friday's Answer: Groceries
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

West preview: Wild race for 8th and 9th



LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—

Add this plot twist to an unusual NBA season: To get the No. 8 seed in the Western Conference, a whole bunch of teams will enter the final two weeks of the regular season trying to finish ninth.

Yes, ninth.

All the drama in the West when the NBA season resumes at Walt Disney World on July 30 after a 4+-month break because of the coronavirus pandemic will come from the bottom of the standings and the race just to get into the playoffs.

Memphis comfortably holds eighth place, which ordinarily would mean a playoff berth. But not this year, not with five teams with realistic chances of forcing a play-in series by finishing ninth and within four games of the team in eighth—which, barring a collapse, would be the Grizzlies.

“We obviously know our eight-game seeding schedule is going to be a challenge,” Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. “All teams playing for playoff positioning, getting into the playoffs ... I mean, we’re going to have high-competitive games.”

If the Grizzlies go 5-3 in their seeding games, they’re assured of no worse than a spot in the play-in series—a best-of-two matchup between the No. 8 and No. 9 teams when the regular season ends, provided the No. 9 team is within four games of eighth. The No. 9 team would have to go 2-0 in that series to advance.

The challengers all have a storyline.

San Antonio is aiming to become the first team in NBA history to make 23 consecutive postseason appearances. Sacramento is aiming for its first playoff trip in 14 years; Phoenix is aiming for its first playoff spot in 10 years, with those droughts the longest in the history of each franchise. New Orleans is trying to get in and extend J.J. Redick’s streak of making the playoffs in every season since his freshman year of high school. Portland is seeking a seventh consecutive postseason spot.

Add it all up, and inside the bubble, there’s going to be a sprint to the finish in the West.

“The mark of success for us was going to be to play meaningful games in March and April,” said David Griffin, the executive vice president of basketball operations for the New Orleans Pelicans. “This is now going to be meaningful games in July and August, but we’re going to get to do that. That was important to us because of our young core.”



AP
The Los Angeles Lakers’ Anthony Davis (3) takes the ball over Orlando Magic’s Amile Jefferson during an NBA scrimmage at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Kissimmee, Fla., Saturday, July 26, 2020.

for that last spot are already at least eight games below .500 with eight games remaining.

Zion back in bubble

Zion Williamson will be out of quarantine by the time New Orleans plays in the first official game of the NBA restart at Walt Disney World.

Whether the Pelicans will play him that night or not remains anyone’s guess.

The NBA said Saturday that Williamson will have to serve a four-day quarantine for leaving the league’s Disney bubble on July 16 to tend to an urgent family matter. He returned to Disney on Friday night and immediately went into quarantine.

That means he will likely be released from quarantine sometime Tuesday, two days before the Pelicans play the first “seeding game” against the Utah Jazz.

A person familiar with the situation said that if all goes well with Williamson’s quarantine, he can return to team activities during a practice scheduled for Tuesday night. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because such plans have not been completed and cannot be until Williamson passes more tests now that he has returned to Disney.

“The most important thing is we hope everything’s OK with him,” Pelicans forward Derrick Favors said Saturday, shortly after the NBA revealed the four-day quarantine determination. “He went away for personal reasons. So, it’s good to see. Whatever it was, hope everything went fine and OK and he’s back with us. And I know everybody’s excited to have him back. I know he’s excited to be back.”

Williamson was tested daily during his absence and continually came back negative for COVID-19, which helped his hopes for a shorter quarantine upon his return to Disney. The league has said quarantine for those who leave the bubble can last as much as 10 days or more if those individuals are not tested daily while they are away.

The No. 1 overall pick in last year’s NBA draft is averaging 23.6 points and 6.8 rebounds in 19 games this season for the Pelicans, who are one of six teams in the race for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Who are in and out

The Los Angeles Lakers need a combination of three wins or Los Angeles Clippers losses to clinch the No. 1 spot out West—assuming the Lakers don’t go 0-8 at Disney while the Denver Nuggets go 8-0. The Lakers, Clippers and Nuggets have clinched playoff berths, as have Utah, Okla-

homa City and Houston. Dallas needs only one win in its final eight games to wrap up the No. 7 seed, so that realistically leaves six teams for the one remaining playoff spot.

Only Minnesota and Golden State failed to make the restart out of the West.

The Lakers should be the No. 1 seed for the first time

since 2010—which was also the season in which the Lakers won their most recent championship. The Lakers have reached the NBA Finals in each of the last four seasons where they have entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed out West.

It’s possible—and if there’s a play-in series, very possi-

ble—that a losing record will be good enough to get into the West playoffs for the first time since 1997. That year, Minnesota, Phoenix and the Clippers all got into the postseason despite finishing the regular season below the .500 mark. Memphis is 32-33 going into the restart and all five of the other still-contending clubs

Tyson vs Jones Jr. may still draw crowd



N E W

Y O R K —

What is the intrigue, you may ask, in watching two ex-boxing legends slug around a ring at 54 and 51 years old when there won’t be judging, they won’t be going for knockouts and lord only knows how they’ll make it past two rounds before getting winded.

The intrigue, of course, is Mike Tyson. The 54-year-old former heavyweight champion announced on Thursday that he’ll return to boxing for the first time since he lost to Kevin McBride in 2005 when he faces Roy Jones Jr., 51, on Sept. 12 in Carson, Calif.

Tyson is a different man today than he was at the peak of his career, when he was not only blowing through the best fighters of the day but providing the tabloids enough head-

lines for two lifetimes.

There was a professional wrestler by the name of Johnny Rodz who is now in the WWE Hall of Fame who went by the nickname of “The Unpredictable Johnny Rodz.” Rodz was unpredictable in a scripted show; Tyson was more unpredictable in real life. He was liable to do the most expected things at the least expected moments.

Tyson’s built a second career for himself, much of it based on talking about himself and his wild life during his prime as one of the hardest-hitting boxers ever.

He’s become a successful and wealthy businessman after having lost more than \$300 million he’d earned in prize money during his boxing career. Some of it was stolen from him; much of it he blew with oddball purchases like live tigers. He was “Mike

Exotic” before the world ever knew of “Joe Exotic.”

As he’s turned around his life, built several successful businesses and had a relatively normal retirement from the fight game, a different side of Tyson emerged.

He’s a guy who loves to help others and who revels in providing advice and support to the young fighters who revere him and seek his assistance.

The fight with Jones is a way for him to introduce the world to his new Legends Only League. And it’s not supposed to be a competitive, hard-fought bout. It will be a show for the nostalgists among us, who want to see two of the best whoever did it move around in the ring one more time, even if they’re shells of their former selves.

But Tyson’s former self can’t be forgotten by the millions who grew up mesmer-

ized watching him in the ring and listening to him threatening to eat the hearts of an opponent’s children.

Boxing is a sport of instincts; when under pressure, a fighter will do what he or she knows.

Does Tyson react instinctively and fire off a crunching left hook of his own? Does he get a bit more aggressive than he had agreed to, or wanted to? And what does Jones do in response?

That, my friends, is why you’ll be interested in this fight and why so many more than will admit it today will wind up buying the pay-per-view.

Tyson is the most compelling fighter since Muhammad Ali. He was a brilliant talent who didn’t defeat as many of the world-class opponents as he could have because of things that happened outside the ring. (NBC)

Minus Strasburg, Nats top Yankees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wearing a red muscle shirt with a drawing of a gold trumpet -- this year's answer to the "Baby Shark" phenomenon of 2019—Washington Nationals center fielder Victor Robles sat down for his postgame video conference and announced, "Hi, guys!"

Filled with energy on and off a baseball field, Robles did his part Saturday night to help fill in for missing teammate and friend Juan Soto, who began the season on the COVID-19 injured list.

Robles jump-started Washington's dormant offense by delivering three hits and four RBI, including a homer off the foul pole that he celebrated by pantomiming pandemic-appropriate "air high-fives" with teammates, helping the Nationals beat the New York Yankees 9-2 without scratched starter Stephen Strasburg and despite five errors.

"He uplifted us," Washington manager Dave Martinez said about Robles.

Robles credited utility player Emilio Bonifacio with coming up with the trumpet theme—players motioned with their fingers as if playing a horn after hits—and making shirts with the instrument. Robles likened it to the whole "Baby Shark" vibe last year along the way to a championship when since-departed outfielder Gerardo Parra's child tune became a walk-up song and then an anthem of sorts for the Nationals.

Royals 3, Indians 2, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Greg Holland struck out the top of Cleveland's order to strand the tying run at second base and Maikel Franco hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to give the Kansas City Royals a 3-2 win over the Indians in just the third major league game decided by the debated extra-inning runner rule.

With Greg Allen on second, Holland fanned César Hernández and José Ramírez before getting All-Star Francisco Lindor to chase strike three in the dirt for the final out and the most unique save of his career.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Dylan Bundy pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning in his Angels debut and Justin Upton homered to lead Los Angeles to a 4-1 victory over the Athletics.

Bundy (1-0) allowed one run, three hits, no walks and hit one batter in 6 2/3 innings as part of an impressive first start after being acquired from Baltimore in a trade last December.

The performance helped the Angels bounce back from an



AP
New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres, right, is out at second base as Washington Nationals second baseman Starlin Castro, left, throws to complete the double play against Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton during the first inning of a baseball game at Nationals Park, Saturday, July 25, 2020, in Washington.

phia Phillies' victory over the Miami Marlins.

Braves 5, Mets 3, 10 innings

In New York, free-agent prize Marcell Ozuna introduced himself to new fans back in Atlanta with a big swing when it counted most.

Ozuna hit a tying homer off Díaz with two outs in the ninth inning. Dansby Swanson scored automatic runner Adam Duvall with a leadoff single in the 10th and the Atlanta Braves beat the New York Mets.

New York loaded the bases in the bottom of the 10th with no outs against Luke Jackson (1-0). Pinch-hitter Dominic Smith managed a sacrifice fly, but Jackson recovered and retired Wilson Ramos to end it.

Cardinals 9, Pirates 1

In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt homered, Adam Wainwright pitched six solid innings, and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Wainwright (1-0) pitched out of a bases loaded, no-out jam in the second, giving up just one run. He retired 14 of the final 15 batters he faced as the Cardinals beat the Pirates for the 12th time in their last 13 games.

Brewers 8, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Christian Yelich and Justin Smoak hit long home runs, umpires intervened before a shouting match between the teams got too serious and the Milwaukee Brewers powered past the Chicago Cubs.

Without fans at Wrigley Field, players from both NL Central rivals could be heard shouting toward each other from their dugouts before the start of the fourth inning.

Tigers 6, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Miguel Cabrera passed two superstars with a homer and JaCoby Jones hit a two-run shot in the ninth off Raisel Iglesias, rallying the Detroit Tigers to a victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

After failing to bunt with Austin Romine on first base, Jones snapped a 4-4 tie with his homer into the Reds' bullpen in center field off Raisel Iglesias (0-1), who set a Reds record for a reliever with 12 losses last year.

extra-inning loss in the opener. Upton hit a solo homer off Sean Manaea, and Andreton Simmons and David Fletcher also had run-scoring hits for Los Angeles.

Bundy had seven strikeouts and needed only 90 pitches in an efficient performance.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 1

In Florida, Brandon Lowe's two-run triple snapped an eighth-inning tie and sent the Tampa Bay Rays over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Lowe, batted hit .270 with 17 homers and 51 RBIs in 82 games as a first-time AL All-Star in 2019, hit a drive into the gap in right-center field off reliever Sam Gaviglio (0-1).

White Sox 10, Twins 3

In Chicago, Leury García crashed a successful pitch-and-catch college reunion for Dallas Keuchel and James McCann.

No one on the Chicago White Sox seemed to mind.

García homered from both sides of the plate, and Chicago pounded the Minnesota Twins 10-3 on Saturday.

Keuchel won his White Sox debut while throwing to McCann in a battery comprised of former teammates at the University of Arkansas.

Orioles 7, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Orioles pitcher Alex Cobb has been waiting a long time to tell his teammates "thank you" following a victory.

That wait ended with his first regular-season win in almost two years.

Cobb mostly kept the Red Sox off balance, allowing just four hits and one run while striking out six in Baltimore's 7-2 win.

Giants 5, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Wilmer Flores homered and the Giants beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-4 on Saturday to give Gabe Kapler his first win as San Francisco manager.

After getting outscored 17-2 in the first two games, the Giants took advantage of Dodgers starter Alex Wood's struggles to avoid their first 0-3 start since 2012. They scored

in each of the first four innings to snap a six-game skid against their NL West rivals.

Wood had trouble finding the plate, throwing 67 pitches, including 29 balls, in three innings.

Phillies 7, Marlins 1

In Philadelphia, Zack Wheeler's wait to make his Phillies debut unexpectedly took longer than the one for his newborn son. Five days after Wesley Wheeler was born, dad took home a small souvenir—a game ball from his first win for Philly.

Phil Gosselin homered twice, J.T. Realmuto added a three-run drive and Didi Gregorius went deep again to back Wheeler in the Philadel-

Tiger focuses on PGA Championship, FedEx Cup playoffs



NEW YORK—Tiger Woods will not play at the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational.

Woods, 44, announced the news Friday, saying he will instead begin prepping for the PGA Championship and upcoming FedEx Cup playoffs.

Woods said he was disappointed he would miss the invitational.

The WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational will take place July 30-Aug. 2.

Woods' announcement comes a week after he finished 40th at the Memorial Tournament. Woods needed a late rally to make the cut at the Memorial, but rebounded during his third round of play.

Woods said he struggled with a back issue during his second round at the Memorial. He's struggled with back injuries over the past couple years.

Woods pulling out of the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational isn't necessarily injury related. With the PGA Championship starting Aug. 6, Woods would have played in events three straight weeks, something he rarely does. On top of that, Woods would have played in an event a week before a major, which he usually avoids.

Woods said he believes missing the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational is the best thing to do to prepare him for the PGA Championship. He'll look to rebound at the event after a tough showing

at the Memorial Tournament.

14-day quarantine lifted

The White House has eased travel restrictions for players, caddies and other essential personnel entering the United States to compete on the PGA Tour.

Players were informed late Friday via email that the move is based on groups who are "subject to COVID-19 testing and screening through the Tour's rigorous health and safety protocols throughout a tournament week" and that they won't be subject to the current 14-day quarantine period.

The timing of the move is crucial for players with two of the season's biggest events scheduled for the next two

weeks—the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational and the PGA Championship.

Both Lee Westwood and Eddie Pepperell said this week that they likely won't play the PGA Championship because of the quarantine period.

"Under the current restrictions on traveling to America, I won't go because you have to quarantine for two weeks going out there and that's not something I am interested in doing," Pepperell said.

The new policy applies to anyone inside the Tour's "bubble," including players, caddies, coaches and physical therapist, but not spouses, significant others or family members who are not in the testing bubble. (AP/NBC)

Jets trade disgruntled star Adams to Seahawks



NEW YORK (AP) — Jamal Adams' wish was finally granted: He's leaving New York in a stunning trade.

The Jets dealt the disgruntled star safety to the Seattle Seahawks on Saturday, splitting with a gifted player whose relationship with the franchise quickly deteriorated because of a contract dispute.

New York received a massive haul in the deal, sending a 2022 fourth-round draft pick along with Adams to the Seahawks for a 2021 first-rounder, a 2022 first-rounder, a 2021 third-rounder and safety Bradley McDougald—pending physicals.

"While we had maintained our interest in Jamal Adams having a long and successful career with the Jets, we know it's important to be prepared and willing to adjust to new offers and circumstances," general manager Joe Douglas said in a statement. "As I have always said, my job is to listen to calls and this offer was one we could not ignore."

The deal ended a contentious

several months for Adams and the Jets, a situation that increasingly appeared headed for a divorce when the two-time Pro Bowl selection criticized ownership early in the week and then took shots at coach Adam Gase and Douglas in an interview with the Daily News published Friday.

"To NY & especially the Jets fans, I love you & will always love you," Adams wrote in a Twitter post. "You all will hold a special place in my heart forever. When I came into the league, you embraced me & watched me grow! We went through it all together. Thank you for the Luv & support these 3 years. (hash)Prez Out."

Adams followed that up with a message to the Seahawks and their fans in a Twitter post that included a graphic of the safety in his new team's uniform.

"You have a man on a mission," he wrote, "a man all in on winning a Super Bowl, being the best leader & teammate he can be, & a man who will give everything he has to the city of Seattle and to the 12s all across the world. Thank



you for believing in me!"

The 24-year-old former LSU star was drafted sixth overall by the Jets in 2017.

He quickly established himself as a fan favorite and one of the best players at his position, being selected for the last

two Pro Bowls and making the All-Pro squad last year.

But Adams' relationship with the franchise began to

take a turn last October. The safety was angered when Douglas fielded phone calls from teams inquiring about Adams' availability at the trade deadline. Douglas made it clear the cost for Adams would be exorbitant, a sign the Jets had no interest in dealing him. But Adams felt the team shouldn't have even listened to other teams' offers.

Adams went a week without speaking to Douglas or Gase before smoothing things after talking with CEO and chairman Christopher Johnson.

Mahomes knows risk

In Kansas City, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was on every call involving the NFL Players Association and took a significant role in putting in place the return-to-play protocols for training camp.

So while he acknowledges "some risk" in returning to the team facility on Saturday, when Mahomes joined rookies and select veterans for the start of his camp, he also felt comfortable in knowing the environment would be as safe as possible.

"I think the NFLPA did a good job getting all the players on the call and being prepared to be in the building and everything that entailed," said Mahomes, who like the rest of NFL players did the entire offseason remotely. "They're really taking this thing seriously. They're taking social distancing and wearing a mask seriously, so we're not hurting each other or hurting the people out in the community with us being here."

K FISHER

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at 49.8 lbs, followed by the 24.1 lbs of *Team Kaijin*; 19.2 lbs of *Just for Fun*; 19.1 lbs of *Amazing Grace*; 17.9 lbs of *Cha'nan*; 16.5 lbs of *The Marianas*; 14.5 lbs of the *Happy Rider*; 11.9 lbs of *Le'ana Vae* and *Fountain of Youth*; 11.3 lbs of *Trenchers*; and 10.9 lbs of *MV Connie*.

In the mahi category, *MV Tivana* reeled in 11.7 lbs to beat *Ocean Masta* (10.1 lbs), *Soul Mates* (8.7 lbs), and *Nombe* (4.4). In the skipjack competition, *Santa Soledad's* 11.5 lbs won over the 9.6 lbs of *K Fisher*, while *J&MJ* brought an 8-lb to land in third place.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A fisherman brings his wahoo to the weighing station in Smiling Cove Marina during last Saturday's 36th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bishop Ryan Jimenez blesses the boats before the start of last Saturday's 36th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

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their Little League experience, as well as all of those who will be aging out of their respective division this year. Little League International hopes that all of its 12-year-olds, and all those who are aging out of their respective divisions, have the best opportunity to enjoy their final season of participation together through local regular season and tournaments," Little League International said in a statement posted on its website, as district and regional members inquired about the age restrictions.

Little League programs across the globe were scheduled to kick off early this year, but was postponed on many occasions before Little League

International finally decided to pull the plug on the 2020 season in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Saipan, the 2020 season was set to start in March with 15 teams joining the tournament—five each in the Minor and Major, three in the Junior, and two in the Senior. A few days after the official announcement from Little League International, assistant district administrator and Saipan Little League Baseball president Mike Borja said they are calling the 2020 season off.

With the cancellation of this year's competitions, coaches inquired with the Little League International, asking if there will be considerations on the age cut-off. The response was negative, but the sanctioning body assured its members that there will be no

adjustments to the age restrictions at any level of the program for the 2021 season.

"Although this is an unfortunate situation that was out of Little League's control, it would not be appropriate to have those aged-out players participate on the same field as younger players in 2021. We encourage all of those children who will age out of the Little League Baseball and Softball divisions to explore additional opportunities in our teenage divisions, and look to enjoy the Little League experience at the next level of play," Little League International said.

This year's cancellation of tournaments was tough luck for CNMI players that will age out in the Senior League division, as last year there was also no competition for the 15



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2018 file photo, the NSA Braves first baseman and a Falcons runner get ready for the next play during their game in the Senior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

to 16 age group due to the lack of venue. The Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, where Senior and Junior League matches

are played, sustained significant damage from Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018 and was not ready then to hold

games for the 2019 season (that started in April). Only the Minor and Major competitions took place last year.



West preview:
Wild race for
8th and 9th

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Minus
Strasburg,
Nats top
Yanks

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

K Fisher tops fishing derby

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After some tough luck in the early hours of their trolling, *K Fisher* captain Jun Azarcon and crew finally landed the prized catch—a 290-lb marlin—to rule the 36th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament held last Saturday.

K Fisher reeled in the heaviest bill fish to prevail against 57 other boats that registered for the Saipan Fishermen's Association-organized competition. Joining Azarcon on the winning boat are anglers Jack Diaz, Joe Torres, Pat Reyes, and Pete Sablan.

Sablan said they caught the marlin somewhere east of Saipan (it's expected and understandable for most fishermen to not disclose their specific hunting grounds, especially during competitions) just before lunch and after initially getting several tunas.

"We are following a school of fish for a few hours in the morning and we're only catching tunas. We got a strike at 11am and the reel went screaming. We knew it was a marlin, but couldn't tell if it was a big one," Sablan said.

"We were able to pull it in

around 11:20am. We trolled for a few more hours around the same location to see if we could get a bigger marlin or a wahoo. Then we decided to make our way back to the dock by 3pm," the *K Fisher* crewmember added.

Cut-off time for last weekend's tournament at Smiling Cove Marina was at 5pm, an hour earlier than the usual deadline. This year's competition was also shortened, from two days to just one due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite of the changes in the tournament that was originally set for July 18 and 19, this year's event still had a good turnout with a mix of newcomers and returning participants.

Newbie *Sesa* came in second behind *K Fisher* for the heaviest bill fish category after reeling in a 170.6-lb marlin. In the yellow fin tuna division, *Ich-*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
K Fisher's captain and crewmembers pose with their 290-lb marlin at the weighing station in Smiling Cove Marina during last Saturday's 36th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

iban's 10.6 lb-catch narrowly beat the 10.5-lb of *Bunita*.

In the wahoo category, *Reyisa* had the heaviest catch

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

K Fisher's captain and crewmembers and other participants in last Saturday's 36th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament head out of the Smiling Cove Marina.

No waivers for players aging out in Little League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Little League International will not be issuing waivers that will allow players who will age out of their division to play in the same category next season after this year's competitions were shelved due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Little League program

has four divisions (for competitive) with the Major catering to children in the 9 to 12 age group, Intermediate (50/70) for 11 to 13, Junior for 12 to 14 and Senior for 13 to 16. Local Little League programs, such as the CNMI District, are allowed to have a different cut-off, but it must still be within the same age

range (10 to 12 for Major, 12 to 13 for Intermediate, 13 to 14 for Junior, and 15 to 16 for Senior).

"Little League International is saddened to see all of its league age 12-year-old boys and girls miss out on what many view as the pinnacle of

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2019 file photo, the Kagman Little Legals' Albert Adriano, left, avoids a tag from Falcons catcher Delton Lieto, while the former's teammate Jarod Muna is still down after sliding home during the top of the first inning of their Majors game in the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Capital Hill Ballfield.